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ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting Held

Officials on Security Concerns

BK2307100794 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Jul 94 p A7

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday called for a halt to the military buildup in East Asia and proposed preventive diplomacy to deal with regional conflicts.

"The creation of some kind of regional arms control regime can deter arms build-ups," Chuan said in his address to the opening of the ASEAN annual meeting.

Chuan noted that possible competition for resources and territorial disputes are among issues of concern to ASEAN which needed to tackle them with new approaches and strategies.

"A desirable way I think, is preventive diplomacy," he said.

Chuan said there is an urgency "to avert armed confrontation arising out of such rivalry."

The prime minister specifically cited the contention for ocean space and resources in the South China Sea where China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Brunei have overlapping claims, as a "particularly worrisome prospect."

Some ASEAN officials said they expected the rivalry over the Spratly Islands to be addressed during the first ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) next week.

But a senior Chinese official on Thursday ruled out multilateral discussion on the issue, saying Beijing preferred bilateral resolution of the claims.

Chuan said the ARF is crucial for confidence-building in Asia-Pacific. "This is unprecedented in that there will now be a comprehensive platform to enhance political and security cooperation," he said.

Several of the ASEAN foreign ministers addressing the opening of the meeting also expressed concerns over regional security.

Thailand's Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri cited the arms build-up in the region and North Korea's nuclear weapon development.

Prasong said the UN Register of Conventional Arms and Military Expenditure will help bring about great transparency in military spending. "I am pleased to note that all of the ASEAN countries are now in a position to subscribe to the UN Arms Register," he said.

He hailed the ARF as "the beginning of the gradual process leading to the eventual development of a variety of confidence- building measures based on mutual trust and understanding, shared values and common objectives."

Prasong proposed that participants begin exploring initial steps in confidence-building "that will provide increasing transparency with respect to a nation's intentions."

Singapore's Shunmugam Jayakumar said the risk of war still exists on the Korean peninsula and in the South China Sea but expressed hope that the ARF could lay the foundation for resolving disputes and nurturing predictable relations.

Philippine Foreign Minister Roberto Romulo said the ARF should work towards adopting measures that would encourage more openness on defence issues.

He said these measures could include establishing a regional register on arms and defence expenditures, allowing observers at military exercises and closer cooperation among armed forces.

"Some of these and similar arrangements could apply to the South China Sea, an area of some concern to us all," Romulo said.

Chuan Urges 'Greater ASEAN'

BK2307101394 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Jul 94 pp A1, A4

[Text] Leading a chorus of calls for a "greater ASEAN", Prime Minister Chuan Likphai declared yesterday that the time was drawing near for the regional group's former ideological foes, the Indochinese states and Burma, to become full members.

"ASEAN must strive to evolve into a truly region-wide body. It is important that we complete this process as speedily as is practicable," Chuan said yesterday in his opening address at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) annual ministerial conference in Bangkok.

The meeting marked the first time in ASEAN's 27-year history that foreign ministers from all 10 Southeast Asian nations, including non-ASEAN members Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Burma are participating in the meeting.

Setting the tone for many of the speeches to follow, Chuan noted that the inclusion of Burma in the group's dialogue process "completes the list" of Southeast Asian countries.

Burma is attending the meeting as the guest of Thailand. Cambodia is here at the invitation of ASEAN while Vietnam and Laos already have observer status.

Vietnam's full membership is expected to be endorsed during the talks, despite concerns about the slow pace of its move to a market economy and its ability to meet technical and procedural criteria.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam is due to discuss the issue further in bilateral talks over the coming week.

Philippines Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo said Vietnam's promotion from ASEAN observer status to full membership was "only a matter of time and procedure rather than principle or policy".

"We look forward to the day wher Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar (Burma) too, become members of ASEAN. On that day, ASEAN will finally encompass all of Southeast Asia, as ASEAN's founding fathers envisioned it in 1967," he said.

Echoing Chuan and Romulo, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi said "ASEAN cannot remain a six. It must become 10, and the sooner we can make this happen, the better."

"It is only natural for ASEAN and Southeast Asia to be synonymous. I is also logical. It would serve the strategic interests of all Southeas Asian countries," he said.

The Malaysia minister said ASEAN should aim to achieve its newly- laid goal of converting "the Southeast Asia area into the ASEAN sub-region" by the first decade of the next century.

Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said a 10-nation ASEAN was inevitable although the process would not be without its difficulties.

"Of course, merging these countries into the mainstream of Southeast Asian economic growth and political stability will take time, but it is in the interest of ASEAN to commit itself to that course," he said.

Singapore Foreign Affairs Minister S. Jayakumar, whose country has been more reserved about opening ASEAN's door to the former communist nations, acknowledged that "the prospect of an expanded ASEAN must be seen in a positive light and welcomed".

"While the expansion of ASEAN membership will no doubt lead to adjustments in consultation and decision-making procedures, an expanded ASEAN will mean a more dynamic Southeast Asia, which in turn will fuel the ongoing energy which pervades the Asia Pacific region," he said.

Romulo said the development of a greater ASEAN would lead to the extension of the group's consensual approach into other economic and political arenas.

"In economic terms we have done this in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec)," he said.

"In political and security terms ASEAN's reliance on dialogue and consultation and its gradual, pragmatic approach are now being projected onto a broader platform, the ASEAN Regional Forum," he said.

Laotian Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat expressed his country's commitment to pursuing market-based economic reforms and said Vientiane was working determinedly to meet the preconditions for membership to ASEAN.

Somsavat said Laos sees its current observer status in the regional grouping as "an initial step towards its full membership in the future".

"We, therefore, are actively studying the structures and activities of ASEAN so as to prepare ourselves for the same," he said.

Laos is hampered by a shortage of sufficiently trained and English-speaking staff, and also lacks financial resources to meet the cost of sending delegations to the numerous ASEAN committee meetings.

ASEAN observers said political instability was likely to prevent Cambodia's gaining access to ASEAN in the near future. The case of Burma would depend on political developments in the country.

Summing up, Prasong said the region, which has been marked by conflict since the end of the Second World War, was moving towards becoming a true community.

Ministers Discuss SRV, Laos

BK2307145294 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Jul 94 p A7

[Text] VIETNAM, an arch-rival of ASEAN during the Cold War, is expected to become a full member of the anti-communist regional grouping by next year, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi said yesterday.

He said Vietnam should gain full ASEAN membership before the next ASEAN summit scheduled for December 1995 in Bangkok.

The question of Vietnam's membership was discussed during the closed session of the six ASEAN foreign ministers yesterday. Vietnam has had observer status in the grouping since 1992 when, along with Laos, it acceded to the Southeast Asia Treaty of Amity and Cooperation.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said Vietnam's entry into ASEAN is a foregone conclusion. "What remains to be done is to determine the appropriate date," Cam said in a speech at the opening of the ASEAN meeting.

Cam told THE NATION that Vietnam was "actively making preparations so as to join ASEAN as soon as possible."

He said Vietnam's entry into the regional body "conforms with the prevailing trend in the region and will surely contribute to the prosperity of each country and of the whole region."

Cam recalled that over the last two years Vietnam has signed with ASEAN countries nearly 40 governmental agreements.

He noted also that 60 percent of his country's trade is now with ASEAN members. He said in 1992, trade between Vietnam and ASEAN was worth US$ 1.7 billion while that of the first six months of this year was US$1.1 billion.

"This promises increasing growth in trade between Vietnam and ASEAN thus creating a premise for Vietnam to join Afta [ASEAN Free Trade Area]," he said in a written interview with THE NATION.

Philippine Foreign Minister Roberto Romulo, however, said Vietnam can become an ASEAN member without having to join the ASEAN Free Trade Area which aims to reduce trade tariffs among member countries nearly to zero.

Malaysia's Badawi said Vietnam needs time to adjust itself economically and politically before becoming a full ASEAN member.

A final draft of the joint communique of the ASEAN meeting notes that Vietnam will be accepted as a new member of ASEAN.

Cam said Vietnam is already working to join other regional bodies, especially the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (Apec), and the World Trade Organization. "This demonstrates our clear stand that Vietnam is speeding up its process of joining the region and the world," he said.

As for Laos, Badawi said the process for that land-locked country to become an ASEAN member is "slow".

Laotian Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat noted in his speech that Laos' observer status in ASEAN is an initial step toward full membership.

Opening Day of Talks Ends 22 Jul

OW2207160294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1517 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Bangkok, July 22 KYODO—The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ended an initial day of ministerial talks Friday [22 July] having considered expanding the six-member regional grouping to encompass former rival Vietnam and eventually all of Southeast Asia in a single community.

Much of the day's diplomatic activity, however, took place on the sidelines of the two-day conference as claimants of the Spratly Islands held bilateral meetings among each other in an effort to lessen tension in the South China Sea.

It was the first time for the foreign ministers of all 10 Southeast Asian countries, having healed their divisions, to assemble together under the same roof for an ASEAN event.

Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, speaking at the outset of the meeting, said ASEAN "must strive to evolve into a truly regionwide body."

"It is important that we complete this process as speedily as practicable," Chuan said in a keynote speech. "This is a crucial step toward expanding the sense of community in the region, which, in turn, underpins the future regional peace and prosperity through regional collaboration."

Chuan was referring to the incorporation of Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar [Burma] and Cambodia into ASEAN, which now groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The foreign ministers of Laos and Vietnam were in attendance as ASEAN observers, the former professing to be still unprepared and the latter ready to become a full member as early as next year.

Cambodia was invited as a special guest of the ASEAN Standing Committee, while Myanmar, which made its ASEAN debut amid controversy over its military government's questionable legitimacy and poor human rights record, is participating in the opening and closing sessions as Thailand's guest.

"We look forward to the day when Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, too, become members of ASEAN," said Philippine Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo. "On that day, ASEAN will finally encompass all of Southeast Asia as ASEAN's founding fathers envisioned it in 1967."

Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Badawi [name as received] called for "converting the entire Southeast Asian area into the ASEAN sub-region" by the year 2010.

"ASEAN cannot remain at six. It must become 10, and the sooner we can make this happen the better," he said.

Singapore Foreign Minister S. Jayakumar said expanded ASEAN membership "will mean a more dynamic Southeast Asia, which in turn will fuel the ongoing energy which pervades the Asia-Pacific."

Behind the scenes at the meeting, the foreign ministers of such countries as Vietnam, the Philippines and China, which is participating as an ASEAN consultative guest, held a series of bilateral meetings dealing with the contested Spratlys.

The potentially oil-rich islands are also claimed by Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Malaysia, meanwhile, maneuvered to garner support for an informal meeting of concerned ministers Monday to discuss its proposal for an East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) that would exclude such non-Asian countries as the United States and Canada.

"The objective of the consultations, very informally if need be, is to obtain inputs from prospective members to enable the EAEC project to be launched as soon as possible," Badawi said.

The meeting is the first in a series of three major confabs here through next week. The highlight will be an unprecedented 17-nation ministerial gathering on security in the Asia-Pacific region Monday which will bring in such other countries as the U.S., China, Russia and Japan.

The ASEAN regional forum, which will be more symbolic than substantive in its embryonic stage, will be followed by two days of talks between ASEAN and its so-called dialogue partners, including Japan, the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and the European Union.

On Saturday, a closing ceremony will take place in which there will be a joint communique issued, a new ASEAN flag unveiled and an agreement on reorganized ASEAN fund of pooled contributions signed.

Ministers View ASEAN Role

BK2307122894 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Jul 94 p 6

[By Peter Mytri Ungphakon]

[Text] Most of the formal speeches at yesterday's opening session of the annual ASEAN ministerial meeting concentrated on how the group can expand both by adding new members and by finding new roles for itself.

For many ministers, the key issue was also how ASEAN should handle its security in a changing world with several placing emphasis on proposals for a regional nuclear weapons-free zone, and Philippine Foreign Secretary Robert Romulo proposing additionally some military cooperation.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai set the tone by welcoming the creation of the new ASEAN Regional Forum, an informal gathering of ministers from ASEAN members together with Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, the European Union, Vietnam, Laos, Russia and Papua New Guinea that is due to meet for the first time or Monday.

The forum "signifies a growing interest of the countries of the Asia-Pacific in addressing their collective security well-being", Mr Chuan said in his key note address.

"This on-going widening regional dialogue symbolises ASEAN's continuing dynamism in the post-Cold War period. As a most comprehensive multilateral process, the ASEAN dialogue is the only one of its kind in the Asia-Pacific."

Mr Chuan described ASEAN as standing at a crossroads of dramatic global change, with "an unprecedented trend of peace and growing economic dynamism" in the region.

He saw security dangers arising from competition for resources and territorial disputes in the region. With his mind particularly on rival claims over islands in the South China Sea, Mr Chuan said there is an urgent need to avert armed confrontation.

Mr Chuan also called for strengthened economic cooperation within ASEAN. He described the recent conclusion of the Uruguay Round of world trade talks, moves to create an ASEAN Free Trade Area and ASEAN's position on trade liberalisation within the cross-Pacific Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum as part of the same philosophy of "open regionalism".

He said ASEAN should play more active roles both in APEC and in the new World Trade Organisation that is due to be set up early next year.

"The Uruguay Round did not fully settle potential controversy along the North-South divide, namely the concern of developing countries about protectionist trends in developed nations," Mr Chuan said.

"Of particular concern here is protectionism against textiles and agricultural products. In addition, there is a growing anxiety about an emerging practice among the developed countries of linking trade and aid issues and with sociological conditions in the developing world. Again ASEAN cannot but show concern for these Third World issues."

Mr Chuan said ASEAN should become a more credible voice echoing the common concerns of the developing nations in international forums. In order to achieve this, ASEAN should become a body representing the whole of Southeast Asia.

Several ministers saw danger in the tension in the Korean peninsula.

"We continue to believe that this complex issue can only be resolved through the exercise of mutual restraint and through patient and sincere dialogue and negotiation," said Indonesia's Ali Alatas.

His speech was a wide-ranging comment on recent world events, from South Africa to Yemen. He described the current period as one of instability and flux. Mr Alatas said it is "imperative" that South East Asian countries as well as the major powers, "are committed to a commonly agreed code of conduct and a posture of greater mutual restraint at all levels".

He called for the ASEAN Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality, an idea that Indonesia has advocated for years to be translated into a Southeast Asian nuclear weapons-free zone.

Mr Romulo also called for an accelerated nuclear-weapons free programme. He proposed that ASEAN members might exchange defence white papers and establish a regional register of arms and defence expenditures.

"We could let observers into our military exercises. We could intensify exchanges between our military establishments and step up cooperation in activities involving our armed forces," he said.

Mr Romulo also expressed concern about the nuclear question in North Korea.

"It is perhaps not too early to consider the eventual participation of North Korea in (the ASEAN Regional Forum's) deliberations."

He was referring to the new informal meetings of ASEAN and other countries with interests in the region that will discuss security issues. The firsl meeting is scheduled for Monday, but North Korea will not attend.

Singaporean Foreign Minister Shunmugam Jayakumar echoed Mr Chuan's view of ASEAN needing to adapt to change.

"While present trends across the Asia-Pacific point toward even greater economic growth, political stability cannot be guaranteed. The risk of war still exists on the Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea disputes are another potential regional flashpoint," he said.

"It will thus take little to threaten, or even destroy the present conditions for growth and development. Therefore, the challenge for us in the post-Cold War era is the maintenance of these favourable conditions. The answer to this challenge lies in the structured management of change in the Asia-Pacific for the next decade."

He saw the presence of the United States in the region as a stabilising factor.

"Equally vital is the management of the triangular relationship between the US, Japan and China."

ASEAN's value, he added, is in the "level of comfort conducive to the free exchange of views" it has developed through its years of existence.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, shared his Philippines' counterpart's enthusiasm for developing closer security ties in ASEAN. His view was that this would be best served by dialogue on Asia-Pacific regional security "approached from a solid ASEAN base".

He urged ASEAN to play a greater role in international forums and to accelerate the ASEAN Free Trade Area programme. As usual, the Malaysian minister also called for urgent attention to be paid to the East Asia Economic Caucus proposal, an idea created by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed that would include Asian countries, but not North American members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

"We know that APEC has taken on a momentum of its own, including suggestions that it should one day be transformed into a Pacific economic community. I would urge that we pause to take stock where such suggestions would lead us to, in order to ensure that our individual and collective group interests continue to be ensured and protected," he said.

Brunei's foreign minister, Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, called for the acceleration of the ASEAN Free Trade Area programme and welcomed the creation of the ASEAN regional forum on security.

Sirivut Says Cambodia To Join ASEAN

BK2407101594 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 24 Jul 94 p 2

[Text] Cambodia yesterday officially expressed its intention to join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as soon as possible.

Cambodian Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivut made the announcement during a bilateral meeting with Asean as part of the annual meeting of foreign ministers which ended yesterday.

Thai Foreign Minister Sqn Ldr Prasong Sunsiri represented Asean during the one-and-a-half-hour meeting, also attended by the senior officials of the other five Asean countries.

Prince Sirivut told reporters: "We expressed our intention to join Asean as soon as possible. Cambodia is ready to sign the treaty of Bali (Treaty of Amity and Cooperation)."

An informed source at the meeting said Prince Sirivut asked for observer status. Sqd Ldr Prasong told Prince Sirivut that Asean supported Cambodia's bid to join, but pointed out that it was necessary to undergo certain technical procedures in applying.

An official letter of application must be sent to the Asean Secretary in Jakarta as a first step, followed by accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation of 1976.

In his opening remarks at the Asean-Cambodia bilateral meeting, Sqd Ldr Prasong said: "Asean is pleased that Cambodia, which is an integral part of the Southeast Asian region, could be present at this meeting."

He said Cambodia's presence was yet another opportunity to discuss wide-ranging issues of mutual concern. Asean would continue to support the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia, regarded as vital to its economic development and stability.

"A peaceful and stable Cambodia will benefit not only the Cambodian people but also Southeast Asia. Cambodia's participation in regional affairs would forge unity and cohesion within the region, thus contributing to regional stability and prosperity," Sqn Ldr Prasong said.

Prince Sirivut said he would return to Phnom Penh and proceed with the official application for membership. One of the procedures is to obtain Cabinet approval for Cambodia to accede to the Treaty.

Prince Sirivut said Cambodia would invite Asean foreign ministers to visit Cambodia, in particular Secretary General Datuk Ajit Singh. "We had a good meeting," Prince Sirivut said.

This year's joint communique, issued at the end of the 27th Asean Ministerial Meeting, devoted only two short but strong sentences to Cambodia, a country which had been the primary preoccupation of Asean for the past decade.

Meeting Assails Khmer Rouge

BK2407103794 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 24 Jul 94 p A2

[Text] The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) yesterday condemned their former ally, the Khmer Rouge guerrillas, for upsetting the peace Asean had patiently nurtured in war-torn Cambodia.

"The foreign ministers reiterated their support for the Royal Government of Cambodia, but noted with concern that peace and stability in Cambodia had not been fully realized," said a communique issued at the end of their annual meeting.

"They condemned the recent attempt to overthrow the legitimately elected Government and also deplored the recent proclamation by the Khmer Rouge of their so-called 'provisional government'."

Asean had supported the Khmer Rouge through the 1980s as part of an alliance against the government which Hanoi installed in Phnom Penh, and it play a key role in brokering the 1991 peace agreement.

But the Khmer Rouge refused to take part in UN-sponsored elections last year and have kept up their guerrilla war since, culminating in Phnom Penh's decision to outlaw them, followed by the guerrillas' announcement of a provisional government.

Speaking for Asean, Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri made a plea to donor countries to expedite assistance funds they have already pledged, saying development was vital to Cambodia's peace and stability.

"A peaceful and stable Cambodia will benefit not only the Cambodian people but also southeast Asia, ... contributing to regional stability and prosperity," he said.

Asked about Asean providing military aid to the Cambodian government, Prasong said this was not allowed under the Paris Peace Accords.

Activists Blocked From Meeting

BK2407101794 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 24 Jul 94 pp 1, 3

[Text] Human rights activists who were to submit a letter to ASEAN at the Shangrila Hotel and wanted to speak to the news media found their way blocked by security guards yesterday.

The head of security, Pol Col Suraphon Thongprasoet, refused to allow the five representatives from the Southeast Asian Human Rights Network to pass. He led them to the hotel's executive room before escorting them outside.

"The ASEAN meetings are being held here. Please go to the room first, for the sake of the country," Pol Col Suraphon was heard to say.

The spokesman for regional NGOs on human rights, Ms Cecilia Jimenez described the incident as disappointing, saying it was a pity access to the press was denied.

"We protest that we are not in a position to express our views in a way that would be accessible to the general public, Thailand and the rest of the Southeast Asia," she said.

Mr Sarawut Pathumrat of the Coordinating Committee of Human Rights Organisations in Thailand told reporters he had been denied freedom of speech, and later placed a plaster on his mouth in a gesture of protest.

From the start there were problems in holding the Southeast Asia NGOs Forum on Human Rights and Development because the Indonesian government asked the governments of ASEAN to try to stop East Timorese people from talking about human rights violations, Ms Jimenez said.

The Thai Government denied entry to 11 East Timorese who were to participate at the NGOs Forum. But resistance leader Jose Ramos- Horta evaded Thai immigration control and attended the meeting.

Mr Ramos-Horta held a press conference calling on the Indonesian government to free East Timor.

The NGOs conference condemned the illegal annexation by Indonesia of East Timor in 1975 and called for an end to its illegal occupation and militarisation of the country.

Ms Jimenez said the NGOs forum was not held to coincide with ASEAN but was a happy coincidence.

The reason why the SEANET [expansion unknown] came to the hotel was simply that they wanted to explain the differences of opinion between the governments and the NGOs on the question of national security and human rights, Ms Jimenez said.

She said the Southeast Asian governments regularly used the term "national security" to justify repressive laws and human rights violations in a variety of situations.

The words "national security and stability" are a facade for preserving the status quo in many Southeast Asian countries, which are in fact oligarchies where political and economic power is concentrated in the hands of a few, Ms Jimenez said.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said yesterday his government had never blocked anyone.

He said: "East Timor has never figured during 27 years of ASEAN, so why should it arise here in Thailand now? Nobody has ever suggested it."

He said Mr Ramos-Horta's demands did not necessarily represent the desire of a majority of East Timorese who now live in East Timor or were born in Indonesia.

Mr Ramos-Horta represents a very small group of dissidents who for the past 17 years have been trying to show that their view of decolonisation is representative of that of the public, Mr Alatas claimed.

"It's up to the people to decide," he said.

The NGOs conference condemned the Burmese ruling junta "for its violent repression of a democratically elected government and the ethnic minorities of Burma."

Burmese Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw is attending the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for the first time at the invitation of ASEAN and a guest of the host country.

The forum expressed "extreme disappointment" at the SLORC's presence at ASEAN meetings. "The invitation damages the reputation of ASEAN and is tantamount to recognising an illegitimate regime," Ms Jimenez said.

"The forum strongly condemns the fact that while U Ohn Gyaw spoke with a UNDP representative about human rights in Burma on July 21, the SLORC raided and destroyed a Mon refugee camp, where many were killed and 5,000 refugees were forced to flee to Thailand. Others were forcibly recruited as porters for the military."

Thailand's Prasong Closes Meeting

BK2307141094 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri delivered an address closing the 27th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting, hosted by Thailand during 22-23 July in Bangkok. He said that ASEAN activities have broadened considerably, demonstrating the group's maturity, organization, and cooperation among the member countries. ASEAN organizations now cover virtually every field, including the political, security, science and technology, environment, labor, and information. ASEAN specialists have already formulated operational plans for various agencies. One can be certain that this network of cooperation will further strengthen ASEAN's stability and unity.

Prasong said on 25 July there will be the inaugural meeting on ASEAN political and security issues with the dialogue partners and the observer countries, which will lay the foundation for peace and stability both in the Asia-Pacific region and the world at large. Prasong said this meeting will provide a good opportunity for an exchange of views with the dialogue partners on current issues and mutual interests, and also for a review of existing cooperation between ASEAN and the dialogue partners. It will specify new directions for future cooperation.

Prasong said the next ASEAN foreign ministers meeting will be held in 1995 and chaired by Brunei.

Then the foreign minister, in his position as chairman of the meeting, gave a news conference. On ASEAN's status and role, he said it is the first time that all 10 [number as heard] foreign ministers of ASEAN attended the meeting. They all look ahead to creating opportunity for every country in the region and to initiating security cooperation in Asia-Pacific and Southeast Asia. The first meeting on this issue will be held here on Monday.

[Prasong] "The ASEAN ministers look ahead and emphasize creating opportunities for each regional country to cooperate for overall stability and prosperity. Another important development in ASEAN is the initiative and action on security cooperation, the ASEAN Regional Forum [preceding three words in English], which will hold its meeting on Monday.

"On political and security cooperation, the meeting that just concluded spent some time discussing preparation for the ARF. Because it was initiated by ASEAN and a historic meeting, the ASEAN ministers want the ARF to be a big success.

"On international and regional political issues, I want to say that the discussions by the ASEAN foreign ministers covered various matters that could be the cause of tension and disputes."

The foreign minister said the meeting emphasized creating a relationship with the other four countries in Southeast Asia, with the hope they will join ASEAN, thus making it a 10-member group. Preparations are under way to accept Vietnam as an ASEAN member.

[Prasong] "The meeting participants expressed a desire to see Cambodia enjoy durable peace and stability and the hope that every side concerned will resort to peaceful settlement of their problems. As I said earlier, the ASEAN ministers look forward to regional cooperation that encompasses every country in the region based on cooperation in the framework of ASEAN. Therefore, in this meeting the ministers emphasized their readiness to accept Vietnam's membership. The senior officials of ASEAN and the ASEAN secretary general have been assigned to discuss procedures and relevant matters with Vietnam to prepare it to become a future member of ASEAN."

On economic cooperation, the foreign minister said the ASEAN ministers are pleased with the progress of the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA].

[Prasong] "There will be efforts to accelerate AFTA to achieve its objectives. This takes into consideration the tendency that every country will have to eliminate obstacles to trade, be they tariff or nontariff, under the committments in framework of the Uruguay Round. The major discussions on the economic issues concern various areas of cooperation after conclusion of the Uruguay Round. The issue of concern is the attempt of some groups to link nontrade matters, such as environment and labor standards, to conditions governing trade. This kind of linkage is tantamount to a new form of trade protectionism.

"Another important matter at the current ASEAN meeting is preparation for the APEC ministerial meeting and the informal meeting of APEC leaders in November. Regarding this APEC meeting, the ASEAN countries have coordinated their positions regarding the priority they assigne to various forms of APEC cooperation, such as human resource development, technology transfer, enhancement of private sector's role, and infrastructure development.

"On the ASEAN summit, the ASEAN foreign ministers agreed that the summit will be held in Thailand in the second week of December next year.

"The ASEAN foreign ministers meeting can be regarded as having scored a great success. I myself and Thailand are particularly very honored to host and preside over the meeting."

In any event, the ASEAN foreign ministers are concerned about certain developed countries trying to exploit social issues to set conditions for trade agreements that will deprive developing countries of foreign markets and employment. They appeal to the International Labor Organization to support flexible and fair job creation measures, taking into account the needs of the developing countries.

The ASEAN foreign ministers signed an agreement on the establishment of the ASEAN Fund, which will become a resource for achieving the resolution of the fourth ASEAN summit. They also agreed to designate ASEAN to serve as a symbol of cooperation and unity.

Following the news conference on cooperation within the framework of ASEAN, the foreign minister answered questions from journalists on the invitation extended to Burma to attend the ASEAN meeting. He said Burma's participation is the result of an ASEAN consensus. It is the first successful step of the constructive policy that has brought Burma to the meeting so that it could use the issues discussed at the meeting to try to solve its domestic problems.

[Prasong] "The thing to be gained from attending the meeting and participating in the closing of the meetiing or in the meetings with various delegates, including the bilateral meetings Burma held with certain countries, is that it reflects the opportunity given to Burma to take part in and see the activities being undertaken in the community in this region and to meet the delegates of the communities from other regions. It is the first succesful step of ASEAN's constructive policy. ASEAN is confident that this type of policy will help Burma to have an opportunity to reform and develop its domestic problems more quickly."

Questioned about the ASEAN's attitude toward the Cambodian Government, the foreign minister said ASEAN countries have already assisted in Cambodia's reconstruction. It is an ASEAN policy to support only the elected government in Cambodia. Regarding foreign arms support for Cambodia, the foreign minister noted that the Paris Agreement clearly opposes such support.

[Prasong] "ASEAN's policy is to support the elected government in Cambodia, and it does not support the Khmer Rouge. Regarding sending arms to Cambodia, I ask that the Paris Agreement be taken into consideration. It clearly stipulates that sending arms to Cambodia is undesirable. Regarding assistance in the form of nonlethal equipment to develop the armed forces of the Cambodian Government so that they are strong and the soldiers have good discipline, several countries, including Thailand, have been doing this. We gave them military uniforms. Our soldiers helped to build and repair highways, schools, and shelters."

Summit Concludes 23 Jul

OW2307160994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1510 GMT 23 Jul 94

[By Tim Johnson]

[Text] Bangkok, July 23 KYODO—The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Saturday endorsed Vietnam's admission to the grouping by the end of next year, while calling for a peaceful resolution to touchy territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

The six ASEAN foreign ministers, in a joint communique issued at the conclusion of their two-day meeting in Bangkok, affirmed "their readiness to accept Vietnam as a member of ASEAN."

They said Vietnam's "increased participation" and "greater familiarity" with ASEAN are paving the way for its full membership in the regional grouping.

While the communique did not state a target date, the foreign ministers of several ASEAN countries made it clear that Vietnam's admission by the end of 1995 was already a foregone conclusion.

"I would just like to mention how pleased we are that we have accepted Vietnam as a new member," said Brunei Foreign Minister Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo echoed the sentiment, saying, "I am delighted with what has happened."

Romulo said there remain a number of procedural matters which must be resolved before Vietnam joins the ranks of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

"Does that mean it will happen before the ASEAN summit?," he asked rhetorically. "I would hope it could happen and I think it will happen before then so that it will be a mere pro forma ratification by the time the ASEAN summit comes along."

The fifth ASEAN summit, the communique said, would be held in Bangkok in the second week of December 1995.

The communique also said that Laos is similarly destined for full membership if it continues to develop its contacts with the regional grouping.

But while Vietnam has voiced its readiness to join ASEAN as a full member in the not-so-distant future, Laos has said it needs time to prepare itself.

The communique noted that it was the first time that the foreign ministers of all ten Southeast Asian countries were present at an ASEAN meeting. Vietnam and Laos took part as observers, while Cambodia and Myanmar [Burma] were there as guests.

The ASEAN foreign ministers stated that they were committed to "building a Southeast Asian community through common membership in ASEAN."

The communique made no explicit mention, however, of a so-called SEA-10 (Southeast Asia Ten), a proposal by Thailand and the Philippines for an interim venue for non-ASEAN nations to have a dialogue with ASEAN nations pending their eventual admission into the regional grouping.

"We are within Southeast Asia and it is the appropriate course for us to dialogue with our neighbors on that basis," argued Philippine Foreign Minister Roberto Romulo.

"Either you can go toward the future and say it's 'ASEAN-plus- four,' which would be an extended or expanded ASEAN, or it could be a separate entity called 'SEA-10,' depending on many factors," he told reporters after the meeting.

But Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi rejected the idea, saying, "I don't think there should be any separate entity like it at all. We are already in ASEAN."

The joint communique called for the disputes over potentially oil-rich areas of the South China Sea to be resolved through negotiations without resort to force or threat of force.

It welcomed Indonesia's holding of a series of workshops between experts from the nations involved, aimed at averting potential conflicts over the Spratly Islands and surrounding waters, but failed to endorse Indonesia's proposal Friday to upgrade them to the intergovernmental level.

The foreign ministers of Spratly claimants Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and China took advantage of each other's presence in Bangkok to hold bilateral meetings touching on the issue. The islands are also claimed by Taiwan.

China, which joined the meeting as an ASEAN guest, reiterated its refusal to engage in multilateral dialogue at the governmental level, insisting instead on bilateral talks and calling for the disputes to be shelved for the time being in favor of joint development.

Only a single paragraph of the communique was devoted to the proposed East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC), which is being aggressively pursued by Malaysia as a counterweight to the European Union and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Reflecting a lack of strong support among other ASEAN members, it merely cited "progress" made in consultations on launching the EAEC, while agreeing they should continue. An informal session of talks on the EAEC is scheduled to take place in Bangkok on Monday, reportedly with Japanese representatives in attendance.

Japan, however, has stated it is not inclined to join unless ASEAN is able to dispel U.S. concerns that the group is incompatible with the 18-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

The ministers expressed "serious concern" over moves by some Western industrialized countries to link worker rights, labor standards and environmental issues to trade. They warned it could become "a new pretext for protectionism."

The meeting was the first in a series of three major conferences here through next week, the highlight of which will be an unprecedented 17-nation ministerial gathering Monday on security in the Asia-Pacific region, which will bring in other countries such as the United States, China, Russia and Japan.

The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), which will be more symbolic than substantive in its embryonic stage, will be followed by two days of talks between ASEAN and its so-called dialogue partners, including Japan, the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and the European Union.

'Excerpts' of Joint Communique

BK2407121194 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 24 Jul 94 p A6

[Text] Foreign Ministers of Asean issued a communique after their annual two-day meeting. The following are excerpts on key issues:

Political and security cooperation

The Foreign ministers noted and welcomed Asean's increasingly central role in fostering political and security cooperation in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific through initiatives such as the historical inaugural meeting of the Asean Regional Forum (ARF). Asean should work with its ARF partners to bring about a more predictable and constructive pattern of relations in the Asia-Pacific.

The foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to Asean's principals and objectives on regional peace and security, particularly those contained in the Asean Declaration on the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (Zopfan), the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, as well as the concept of Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone."

Cambodia

The foreign ministers reiterated their support for the Royal Government of Cambodia, but noted with concern that peace and stability in Cambodia had not been fully realized. They condemned the recent attempt to overthrow the legitimately elected Government and also deplored the recent proclamation by the Khmer Rouge of their so-called 'provisional government'."

South China Sea

On conflicting territorial claims, the ministers expressed appreciation at Indonesia's initiative in promoting confidence- building measures and at the bilateral consultations which some countries had begun. "They were convinced that, given the political will and spirit of cooperation of all states concerned, peace and stability in the region could be significantly enhanced."

Korean peninsula

The foreign ministers exchanged views on political and security developments in Northeast Asia and looked forward to the early convening of the Inter-Korean Summit and the resumption of the high-level talks between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea."

Ex-Yugoslavia

The foreign ministers urged support for the latest peace proposals and "called for the lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina in the light of the rejection by the Serbs of the peace proposal.

Middle East

The foreign ministers urged the international community to provide the Palestinian Authority with the necessary financial resources for the successful implementation of the agreements.

Worker rights and protectionism

The foreign ministers expressed serious concern that the linkage of worker rights, labour standards and environmental issues to trade could become a new pretext for protectionism and could undermine the progress achieved so far in the liberalization of world trade. While stressing the importance of uplifting social conditions, they maintained that these issues are more appropriately addressed by other competent international bodies such as the International

Labour Organization (ILO).

The foreign ministers expressed grave concern ... that attempts by some developed countries to introduce social clauses into International Trade Agreements would restrict market access and adversely affect the employment opportunities of workers in developing countries.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

The foreign ministers welcomed the efforts of Apec in promoting greater economic cooperation and trade liberalization and emphasized the need to take into account the different levels of economic development among Apec member economies to sustain healthy economic growth in the Asia Pacific region.

East Asia Economic Caucus

The foreign ministers noted the progress made in the consultations to launch the EAEC with potential members and welcomed their valuable inputs and suggestions. The ministers agreed that these consultations should continue.

Asean Free Trade Area

The foreign ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress of the implementation of the Common Effective Preferential (Cept) for Afta. They were particularly gratified to note that all member countries had begun implementing the tariff reduction programme in 1994.

The foreign ministers expressed confidence that the Cept would enhance the competitiveness of Asean as an international production base and encourage the inflow of foreign direct investments into the region.

Noting the changing world economic environment after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, the foreign ministers expressed their full support for a rapid actualization of Afta to maintain its economic relevance and its attractiveness to foreign investors.

Cooperation with dialogue partners

The foreign ministers reaffirmed the importance of Asean's relations with its dialogue partners in forging a better understanding on issues of common interest. They reiterated the concern over measures that restrict market access of Asean exports. In this regard the ministers, the ministers called upon the dialogue partners to be more forthcoming in responding positively to Asean's needs to foster a more meaningful partnership.

Cooperation with non-dialogue partners

The foreign ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the Asean relations with India and

China. They noted the ongoing process to formulate appropriate modalities for Asean relations with Russia and Pakistan.

Laos and Vietnam

The foreign ministers noted with satisfaction the increasing cooperation between Asean and Laos and Vietnam and encouraged them to increase their' participation in Asean meetings and cooperation programmes. They believed that increased participation in and greater familiarity with Asean would facilitate Laos and Vietnam in their preparations for eventual membership in Asean.

Issues Covered by Communique

BK2407100994 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 24 Jul 94 pp A1, 3

[Text] Setting the stage for a possible confrontation with its Western dialogue partners, Asean declared yesterday that social issues such as labour rights and the environment had no place in international trade agreements.

In a communique issued at the end of their annual meeting, Asean foreign ministers expressed "serious concern that the linkage of workers rights, labour standards and environmental issues could become a new pretext for protectionism".

Earlier this year, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) was at the forefront of a campaign to stymie efforts by the United States and France to include a "social clause" in the recently concluded General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt).

In the face of pressure from developing states, Western nations shelved the plan but have pledged to revive the issue once Gatt's successor the World Trade Organization, assumes responsibility for governing international trade next year.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri insisted that such non-trade issues like labour rights should not be linked to international trade. "They should not be used for bargaining in international trade," he told a news conference.

Prasong said the move would not only jeopardize the economic competitiveness of developing countries but also adversely affect their political and social stability.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi said Kuala Lumpur would always oppose any attempt to link social and trade issues. "Social clauses, such as human and labour rights, and the environment, can be defined as protective measures," he said.

The issue of alleged Western protectionism is likely to resurface next week when the Asean ministers meet with their seven dialogue partners, including the United States, the European Union and Australia.

The communique called on the partners to respond positively to "Asean's needs to foster a more meaningful partnership" and expressed concern over measures restricting market access of Asean exports.

Some Western governments have argued that the social clauses are important weapons against child and forced labour in the Third World, but by pushing the matter so hard, they have raised suspicion that they might want to cite the sub-standard labour conditions in a given country in order to restrict the importation of its products.

In their joint statement the Asean ministers urged the International Labour Organization (ILO) to support flexible working standards and legitimate rules that would not hurt their economies.

The Asean ministers closed their two days of talks with the clear message that their booming economies could become a joint force contributing to long-term regional peace and stability.

"The foreign ministers noted and welcomed Asean's increasingly central role in fostering political and security cooperation in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific," the ministers said in the 32 point communique.

They also agreed to admit Vietnam as the group's seventh member, a first step towards what officials said would eventually make Asean a 10-member group with the eventual inclusion of Laos, Cambodia and Burma.

The communique omitted all references to Burma or the question of human rights, and Prasong told a press conference that the ministers discussed human rights only in general terms.

Prasong said Asean's "constructive engagement" with military- ruled Burma would lead to reform. He conceded that the grouping did not agree with everything happening in that country.

"Burma is not standing still. I believe it understands the changes that the international community would like to see happen in Burma. These are changes that Burma understands and they will implement," he said.

The foreign ministers reiterated Asean support for the elected government of Cambodia but said they were concerned about continued internal strife.

The communique gave virtually no specifics on how the region's economic and political issues should be tackled, or how Asean's key goal of greater economic integration would be realized.

ASEAN-Led Forum, Issues, Goals Previewed

OW2507030494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0145 GMT 25 Jul 94

[by Tim Johnson]

[Text] Bangkok, July 25 KYODO—A new regional security forum led by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) begins its inaugural meeting in Bangkok on Monday [25 July] with 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific region participating.

The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), held in conjunction with the annual ASEAN foreign ministers meeting, aims to serve as a vehicle for "preventative diplomacy," or subduing political disputes before they escalate into armed conflict.

It gathers the six ASEAN members—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—together with Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Laos, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Russia, South Korea, the United States and Vietnam, while also bringing in the European Union.

ARF should eventually allow historic rivals and potential antagonists to "convey intentions, whether on military budgets or territorial claims, erase misperceptions, lower tension and hopefully over time, build confidence, deter arms races and provide for a more secure and stable region," a senior U.S. official said.

Singapore Foreign Minister Shunmugam Jayakumar said, "ARF is an historic achievement which would not have been possible a few years ago."

"It is the sole multilateral forum which brings together all the major actors of the Asia-Pacific region into the regional security dialogue process," he said.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, meanwhile, has characterized ARF as an "all-in" dialogue process, built around the idea of creating security "with others rather than against them."

The meeting will last a mere three hours, hardly sufficient time for an in-depth exchange of views on the most harrying security issues of the day.

But as Philippine Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo told reporters on the eve of the meeting, "the mere fact that we are going to sit down (together) is a statement in itself."

"We walk in there with specific perceptions, but with no necessarily sensational expectations, considering that this is a first meeting," Romulo said.

"I cannot expect too much from the first meeting," echoed Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi. "But the fact that this meeting provides an opportunity for many concerned countries to come together and talk, that is important."

China, for its part, favors a slow-paced cautious approach in which symbolism would initially prevail over substance.

At least in the embryonic stage, Beijing also opposes debate over such controversial issues as overlapping claims in the South China Sea, which it wants negotiated bilaterally.

Other forum members are more ambitious, however, believing that without frank discussions and early forward movement, the forum will lose its credibility and die.

"I believe that we should discuss anything," said Romulo, noting the Philippines' particular concern about the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, which are also claimed by China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei.

"Even in this first meeting, we have to make some progress... If our peoples are not to greet the results of the gathering with disappointment and cynicism," the Philippine foreign minister said.

Jayakumar, however, noted the body "has not acquired the sophistication to see itself through an ambitious agenda."

"A comfortable relationship among participants, a relationship which encourages candor and understanding, must come first," he said. "If we establish such a relationship, then it lays the foundation for the peaceful resolution of disputes in times of crisis."

The restraints imposed on the dialogue aspect of the meeting will be partly compensated for by the opportunity provided participants to float proposals for various measures aimed at fostering trust.

Malaysia and the Philippines, for example, will call for establishment of a regional arms register to keep track of arms and defense expenditures in the interest of transparency.

Japan will join the Philippines in suggesting publication of annual national defense budgets to show how each country views the regional security situation, as well as to clarify military doctrines and capabilities.

Concern has been growing over the arms buildup in the Asia- Pacific region, which some experts predict will lead to an full- fledged arms race if early action is not taken.

U.S. officials have been at pains to assure that the absence of Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has remained in Washington to tend to urgent Middle East business, does not represent any downgrading of the meeting by Washington. Deputy secretary of state, Strobe Talbott, has replaced Christopher.

"Tomorrow's meeting... unprecedented, represents a major step forward on the regional security side with respect to building a new Pacific community," said a senior U.S. official.

ASEAN Regional Security Forum Opens Meeting

OW2507084894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0818 GMT 25 Jul 94

[By Tim Johnson]

[Text] Bangkok, July 25 KYODO—An 18-member regional security forum including such key players as the United States, Japan, China, Russia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) began its first meeting in Bangkok on Monday.

Launched in Singapore last July the ministerial-level ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) has no set agenda but aims at subduing political disputes before they escalate into armed conflict.

The representatives of 17 Asia-Pacific nations and the European Union seated themselves alphabetically around an oval-shaped table at a Bangkok hotel for a three-hour talk, which is expected to be more symbolic than substantive.

The regional participants included the six ASEAN members—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—as well as Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Laos, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Russia, South Korea, the United States and Vietnam.

Issues expected to be alluded to, if not discussed in detail, include the situation in Cambodia, overlapping territorial claims in the South China Sea and North Korea's suspected nuclear development program.

Participants will also float proposals for measures to foster trust through increased transparency.

Malaysia and the Philippines, for example, will call for the establishment of a regional arms register to keep track of arms and defense expenditures in the interest of military transparency.

Japan will suggest the publication of annual national defense white papers to show how each country views the regional security situation, as well as to clarify military doctrines and capabilities.

Concern has been growing over the arms buildup in the Asia- Pacific region, which some experts predict will lead to a full- fledged arms race if early action is not taken.

U.S. officials have been at pains to ensure that the absence of Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has remained in Washington to attend to urgent Middle East affairs, does not represent any downgrading of the meeting by Washington.

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott participated in Christopher's stead.

At the end of the meeting, a chairman's statement will be issued which, according to a draft, says the participants will agree to meet regularly on an annual basis.

The draft indicated they will broaden the focus of their talks beyond the traditional concept of security to include economic, social and other domains.

Also on Monday, the foreign ministers of ASEAN, China, South Korea and Japan attended a working luncheon over the proposed East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC).

The ASEAN foreign ministers decided during their annual meeting Friday and Saturday to hold the informal luncheon with prospective members of the EAEC in a bid to persuade Japan to join the caucus, which was first proposed by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

Relations to Cambodia Viewed

BK2507064494 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Jul 94 p A5

[Text] Cambodian Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivut yesterday denied reports that an Indonesian company quietly sold three million rounds of M-16 rifle ammunition to the Cambodian Army.

He said he had checked with the Secretary of State for Defence, Ek Sereivoat, who said it was not correct.

"I was surprised myself by this story. To my knowledge Cambodia has no such deal with Indonesia. Indonesia does not export weapons, they produce only for internal use," he said.

Cambodia has requested military equipment from several countries, including Australia and the United States, to strengthen the military and help suppress the Khmer Rouge.

The prince yesterday defended Cambodia's right to seek military equipment from other countries.

"Cambodia is a sovereign country and the government is now facing security problems," he said.

Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said at the annual meeting of Asean foreign ministers that outside parties should think carefully before providing military assistance to Phnom Penh as it was prohibited by the Paris peace accords.

Sirivut said: "I don't agree when I hear some people say that according to Paris peace agreement you cannot deal in weapons and ammunition. I don't know about this article. Part three of the agreement mentions clearly that Cambodia has a right to acquire all military equipment necessary to ensure its territory and sovereignty."

A senior US official said yesterday Washington would continue to have talks with nations such as France, Australia and some Asean countries about possible military assistance to strengthen and reorganize the Cambodian army.

The US hoped the Asean Regional Forum would give strong and unanimous support to the legitimate Cambodian government.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi said yesterday that Asean was not a military pact. "We will not consider any kind of military assistance at the moment. We have never talked about military assistance to Cambodia," he said.

Kozyrev on Arms Transfer Guidelines

OW2507152894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1459 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Bangkok, July 25 KYODO—Russia, one of the world's major weapons exporters, has proposed a set of guidelines to govern the transfer of conventional weapons, Russian diplomatic officials said Monday [25 July].

The officials said Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev circulated the proposed guidelines among ministerial-level participants in an inaugural meeting earlier in the day of the 18- member ASEAN regional forum (ARF).

According to the guidelines, parties would commit themselves to refrain from transferring armaments that could "threaten national security of other states" or "introduce into the Southeast Asia region destabilizing military potential."

In a passage that could have ramifications for Cambodia, which is now calling on the U.S. and Australia to provide it with military assistance, the document suggested that weapons be denied in cases where they could "lead to the prolongation or aggravation of any existing armed conflict, taking into account the legitimate self- defense needs."

Arms exporting countries would also take into account recipient countries' observance of international obligations, "in particular concerning the nonuse of force, nonproliferation and other issues of arms control and disarmament."

Kozyrev left the Thai capital Monday after a five-day stay.

Aside from the ARF meeting, he attended the annual ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Friday and Saturday as a guest.

At last year's ASEAN conference in Singapore, Kozyrev offered to provide "strategic means of self-defense to our partners in the ASEAN region."

Earlier this year, Russia made its first big splash in the burgeoning Southeast Asian arms market with the sale of 18 MiG-29 fighter aircraft to Malaysia.

DPRK Nuclear Issue Dominates Talks

OW2507154294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1508 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Bangkok, July 25 KYODO—The nuclear standoff on the Korean peninsula and increased insecurity following Pyongyang's leadership change dominated Monday's [25 July] security talks at the inaugural meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), a conference source said.

U.S. Deputy State Secretary Strobe Talbott called the situation in North Korea "dangerous" and pointed to the need to press Pyongyang to abide by its obligations under the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) when he spoke before the meeting attended by foreign ministers from 17 countries and one regional grouping.

South Korea's Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu also noted that the death of North Korean leader Kim Il-song and the de facto power transfer to his son, Kim Chong-il, "carries a sense of insecurity and isolation," the source said.

"The international community should take steps to reassure North Korea that it is not trying to isolate North Korea or confronting it with unreasonable demands," the source quoted Han as saying.

But at the same time, Han said the international community should hold North Korea to its commitment to nuclear nonproliferation.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo called for the inclusion of North Korea in future ARF meetings, noting that the situation in North Korea affects the region.

The source said even though China did not want to delve into the North Korean problem which it called a "delicate" issue, there was a certain degree of consensus among the participants that dialogues between Seoul and Pyongyang and between Pyongyang and Washington should continue, and that North Korea should continue to adhere to the NPT.

Kono on 'Moderate' Military Strength

OW2507141894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1348 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Bangkok, July 25 KYODO—Japan reassured Asia-Pacific nations Monday that it will continue limiting its military strength to a "moderate" level aimed exclusively at self-defense and supplemented by a security treaty with the United States.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono gave the assurance at the first regional security meeting attended by the foreign ministers of 17 Asia-Pacific countries and the European Union.

Kono, who is also deputy prime minister, called the meeting "a historic opportunity" for security dialogue and proposed three measures to promote mutual understanding and confidence in the security area.

The measures include the publication of national defense "white papers" to share information and thus boost the transparency of each country's defense policy, exchanges of defense personnel, and the holding of seminars on U.N. peacekeeping operations to share experiences in global activities.

"The remarkable economic development of the Asia-Pacific region should lead to the enrichment of people's lives rather than arms buildup," Kono told the inaugural meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), sponsored by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"What we should prepare for our posterity is not a militarily strong Asia-Pacific region but an Asia-Pacific region open to the world, where everybody can live in peace, freedom and dignity," he said.

In this connection, Kono emphasized the U.S. military presence in the area as "a very important factor" for realizing such a goal.

He reiterated Japan's "fundamental philosophy of maintaining an exclusively defense-oriented policy and of not becoming a military power that might pose a threat to other countries."

Kono said Japan "has steadfastly upheld" security arrangements with the U.S. and "has maintained a moderate defense force."

He also noted Japan's three nonnuclear principles of not possessing nuclear weapons, not producing them and not permitting their entry within its territory, and renewed its support for an indefinite extension of the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) which expires next year.

Kono said North Korea's suspected nuclear arms development poses not only "a serious challenge" to the NPT regime but "immediate concern" to the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

He stressed Japan's pledge to cooperate closely with South Korea, the U.S., China and Russia in resolving the nuclear issue.

Meanwhile, Kono conferred with Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai at his Bangkok office prior to the meeting.

Chuan sought continued Japanese assistance for Thailand's economic development, describing Japan's role as great, Japanese officials said. Japan is Thailand's largest aid donor.

Chuan is scheduled to visit Japan in September. The visit was originally slated for April but was postponed due to political turmoil in Japan which resulted in the country's fourth prime minister in a year. Kono apologized for the delay, the officials said.

Forum Ends Inaugural Meeting

OW2507115794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1141 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Bangkok, July 25 KYODO—An 18-member Asia-Pacific security forum including such key regional players as the United States, Japan, China, Russia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ended its first formal meeting Monday on a positive note.

Thai Foreign Ministry Spokesman Suvidhya Simasakul [name as received] told reporters that the three-hour inaugural meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) came up with "something concrete, something that would be good for the region." He said the results of the meeting would be announced later in the evening after the participating foreign ministers end a working dinner.

It is believed that ARF members outside ASEAN will endorse the six-member grouping's treaty of amity and cooperation in Southeast Asia, the so-called Bali Treaty, which lays down a regional code of conduct. They are also expected to agree on continuing the ARF process at a working level and to hold another foreign ministerial meeting next July in Brunei.

South Korean Foreign Minister Hang Sung-chu told reporters that proposals were made at the talks "related to ensuring peace and security in the area." "There will be more detailed and in-depth consideration of the proposals," he said.

Launched in Singapore last July, the first ARF meeting had no set agenda. The aim of the grouping is to subdue political disputes before they escalate into armed conflict.

The representatives of 17 Asia-Pacific nations and the European Union seated themselves alphabetically around an oval-shaped table at a Bangkok hotel for a three-hour talk. Symbolically significant, former adversaries Vietnam and the United States were seated next to one another.

The regional participants included the six ASEAN members—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—as well as Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Laos, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Russia, South Korea, the U.S. and Vietnam.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas acknowledged that among the issues touched on in the meeting were overlapping territorial claims in the South China Sea. The situation in Cambodia and the North Korean nuclear issue were also believed to have been discussed.

Participants also floated proposals for measures to foster trust through increased transparency of military strength and defense policies. Malaysia and the Philippines called for establishment of a regional arms register to keep track of arms and defense expenditures in the interest of transparency, while Japan suggested publication of annual national defense white papers to show how each country views the regional security situation, as well as to clarify military doctrines and capabilities.

Concern has been growing over the arms buildup in the Asia-Pacific region, which some experts predict will lead to a full-fledged arms race if early action is not taken.

Also on Monday, the foreign ministers of ASEAN and Japan, South Korea and China had a working luncheon over the ASEAN-proposed East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC).

The three East Asian nations, all prospective EAEC members, agreed to help ASEAN sell the projected new grouping to Western allies, including the U.S. which has voiced anxiety that it might become a protectionist trade bloc, according to a senior ASEAN official.

Significance of Forum Viewed

BK2507040294 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Jul 94 p 4

[By Saritdet Marukkhathat, Nusara Thaithawat, Suphaphon Kanwirayothin, Piyachat Pradaprat, Anurat Maniphan, and Peter Maitri Ungphakon]

[Text] Bill started it all. Bill Clinton, that is, president of the United States of America no less, but dressed in a colourful check shirt and leather jacket chatting casually in a log cabin on Blake Island outside wintry Seattle.

Strictly no neckties, he ordered the 11 other prime ministers, presidents and "economic leaders" at the first informal summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum last November. The casual photo-opportunity pictures were stunning.

Since then, Malaysia has hosted an informal "retreat" for ASEAN's economic ministers in the Genting Highlands in April. Today, Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri will preside over the first ASEAN Regional Forum, the latest creation for discussing serious topics in a "comfortable" atmosphere.

And indeed the subjects will be deadly serious. Officially, there is no agenda for the ministers from the ASEAN six, their regular dialogue partners (Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and the United States), together with China, Vietnam, Laos, Russia and Papua New Guinea.

But in fact there is a sheet of paper floating around the Shangrila Hotel with the heading "The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Draft Agenda, Asia-Pacific Security of Today and Five Years from Now: Challenges and Opportunities."

And a number of issues are virtual certainties. They include: the question of North Korea's nuclear capability, preventing nuclear proliferation in general, making Southeast Asia a nuclear weapons- free zone, rival claims and armed installations in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, curbing the current arms buildup in the region, various measures for creating confidence among neighbours and regional powers, and perhaps Japan's concern for the safety of shipping routes through the region that provide it with its vital oil supplies.

Treaty

Thailand is also keen to see all participants sign on or recognise in some other form the regional Treaty of Amity and Cooperation of 1976.

A theme that has been heard repeatedly in speeches and interviews over the past few days is the danger that the region faces from potential conflict. On the one hand tension would appear to be easing in the region because the conclusion of the Cold War has ended the conflicts between countries or groups that the superpowers used as proxies for their own rivalries—the manipulation of Vietnam, Cambodia and the rest of Indochina by the United States, Soviet Union and China, for example.

The economic prosperity that is so visible in ASEAN is also reducing the ideological disputes that used to plague the region.

But at the same time the speeches of the past few days have warned that competition for resources in the South China Sea and tension in Korea could become more serious threats. One of the hot debates of international affairs is whether superpower domination actually increased stability in regions such as South- and Northeast Asia. Without puppet masters, some regimes become less predictable.

Outside diplomatic circles there is a considerable amount of cynicism about the ASEAN Regional Forum. The question that are being asked are whether the countries concerned are ready to compromise on the host issues, and whether such a casual forum can actually achieve anything.

Will a country as powerful militarily as China really modify its claim to the Spratlys as a result of today's meeting and whatever follows afterwards? Can the questions of the Spratlys be resolved at all in the absence of one of the six claimants, Taiwan? Taiwan's absence after all, is largely because China is still insisting it cannot talk, however informally, with one of its own provinces; so if the argument is still at that level, what hope of a Spratlys settlement?

And the same goes for discussions about the Korean peninsular. Can ARF achieve anything at all without the participation of North Korea? Philippines Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo is one who believes it cannot. In his speech in the ASEAN ministerial meeting on Friday he suggested: "It is perhaps not too early to consider the eventual participation of North Korea in ARF's deliberations."

Cambodia, too will be absent from any discussion of its problems.

Supporters of ARF believe it has a future. In ASEAN terms it serves as a forum for countries that could start shooting at each other to air their differences, hopefully so that they end up understanding each other and perhaps to solve their problems.

Thai officials, for example, say ARF should aim to create a tradition of political and security dialogues among participating countries, and the creation of close personal rapport among policy makers.

Simply put: it is better to talk than not to talk, and it is easier to talk to people you know.

Because ARF's scope goes beyond ASEAN's borders it allows the discussions to cover all aspects of security that could have an impact on ASEAN countries. It also offers ASEAN an opportunity to start to play a greater role in more global political affairs. In economics, ASEAN is already doing that in world trade negotiations and in APEC.

At an even more elevated level the United States has made clear it considers ARF to be part of its own game-plan for a "rethinking of global institutions" after the end of the Cold War, what some like to call a new world order.

Senior US administration officials who are in Bangkok for this week's meetings described ARF yesterday as the political twin of APEC, one of the "most advanced" constructions in the "new architecture" of the world that includes the "elevation of Asia" in US foreign policy.

Ministers warn, however, that it would be wrong to expect too much@ from today's meeting, mainly because it is the first and therefore an occasion for exploring ideas.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said on Saturday, for example, that he would not pursue his proposal that workshops on technical cooperation in the South China Sea should be have more formal participation from governments.

"The South China Sea will be mentioned in every statement," he predicted, "as one of the things that make up the security picture in East Asia and the Pacific, but at this stage I don't think we can go beyond touching broadly on confidence-building measures."

Mr Romulo gave a similar view yesterday. "It is my hope that there will be something concrete that could be measurable over a period of time, let's say over the next six to 12 mohths.

He went on: "From the dramatic headline standpoint. that really is not the Asian way.... ASEAN moves rather well with its own deliberate way and perhaps we can influence all the other participants of the ARF to move in the same way."

Some of topics likely to be discussed today are contained in papers commissioned specially by ASEAN. South Korea has submitted a document on Northeast Asia Security Cooperation, with the emphasis on the Korean peninsular, that proposes yet another body—a "consultative forum" for Northeast Asian security dialogue. The objective is to "create the favourable conditions for security cooperation among countries in Northeast Asia and to develop a regional framework for peace on a step-by-step basis".

Seoul has not said which countries should participate, nor whether participants should wear neckties. It has suggested that the forum should "maintain a cooperative, consultative relationship with the ASEAN Regional Forum" which has immediately raised familiar questions in ASEAN about the possibility of ARF being "diluted"—just as ASEAN initially queried whether APEC would dilute ASEAN. The US officials said they also saw the Northeast Asian forum as part of President Clinton's architectural vision.

Australia has prepared a paper that focuses on sharing limited defence information and cooperation between the military of the various countries. "The proposals are intended to lead to habits of cooperation and could serve as an important framework for regional security," the paper says.

Nuclear arms

Canada has two papers, on "preventive diplomacy and conflict management" and on the non-proliferation of nuclear arms. (For the control of nuclear arms, Canada envisages yet another piece of architecture, a "pyramid of security" with three levels. At the peak are "region-specific steps for non-proliferation"—half way up are "international instruments of non-proliferation"; at the base is the regional security environment.)

ASEAN copped out. Instead of its own paper, it has submitted a report by the region's institutes of strategic and international studies. The report identifies four problems: Cambodia, the South China Sea disputes, other border disputes, and a build up of more arms of increasing sophistication in the region.

The ASEAN report envisages exchange of defence personnel, publishing defence white papers, a broader view of security issues that will tie in other matters such as economics and politics, for example.

Some countries have also prepared papers without any specific invitation. Japan also wants to see more sharing of information on defence issues, for example the publication of annual defence white paper, promotion of the UN register of conventional arms, and cooperation on nuclear non-proliferation.

Japan, too, proposes exchange of defense personnel and cooperation in peace-keeping operations as additional means of creating confidence and stability.

The Philippines wants to discuss a regional register of arms.

This is all praise-worthy, but why the need for a yet another ASEAN body? Why not simply make China, Vietnam, Laos, Russia and Papua New Guinea either formal members or formal dialogue partners. Then

ASEAN could simply hold "informal PMCs", casual versions of the post-ministerial meeting consultations that ASEAN holds regularly with its dialogue partners.

Two reasons, officials say. First unlike other ASEAN bodies, ARF, is going to concentrate on security and conflict. Second, officials consider the post-ministerial meeting consultations too formal to translate into fireside chats or whatever the air-conditioned tropical hotel equivalent is.

Some are not ruling out ARF turning to other subjects later. Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi says: "ARF is a new experience for us. Let's find out how we feel.... We'll start with security."

Confidence

And, the arrangements are not entirely as unstructured as officials would have us believe, although there is plenty of leeway for the ministers to make their chosen points. ASEAN does not quite have the confidence in informality that the Americans do.

At least one version of the draft agenda proposes this ARF meeting set up a group of "eminent persons" to study security issues and report back to the next ARF meeting, a neat move that will guarantee today's will not be the last.

There is even a draft of the chairman's statement to be issued at the end of the three-hour meeting later today. The latest version focuses on participants endorsing the regional Amity Treaty.

The practical arrangements are modelled almost entirely on the Blake Island APEC meeting. Each of the 18 ministers will be accompanied by only one assistant, in Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong's case by his deputy, Dr Surin Phitsuwan. Each will have a note-taker listening outside the meeting room. But no one has been able to confirm so far whether a specific ban on neckties has been issued.

Whatever the attire, ARF's start has failed to avoid conflict. The arrangements have upset the French. Normally, four European Union representatives talk to ASEAN—a commissioner and a troika of foreign ministers representing the previous, current and next presidents of the European Council (in this case, Greece, Germany and France respectively.)

For ARF, the rule for only two representatives to attend means External Relations Commissioner Hans Van Den Broek will be accompanied by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. France, which has considerable security interests in the region, including arms sales, will not be represented directly in ARF. ASEAN clearly balked at the idea of having too many Europeans in the meeting.

To compensate, the Germans may be given a lesser role than is normally granted the European Council presidency in the more formal post-ministerial consultations tomorrow and Wednesday.

Initially, exclusion from APEC worried the Europeans. Now their inclusion in ARF has still managed to upset some of them.

PRC Minister Reaffirms Spratly Sovereignty

HK2307061494 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 23 Jul 94 p 9

[By Tony Allison in Bangkok]

[Text] China yesterday unequivocally reaffirmed its sovereignty rights over the disputed oil-rich Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, but agreed that it would seek peaceful means to resolve areas of conflict with other countries. The announcement came after talks between the foreign ministers of China and Vietnam on the opening day of the 27th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ministerial meeting.

Although neither country is a member of the six-nation ASEAN, China is attending as a guest of the group, while Vietnam is present as an observer—a preliminary status pending its possible admission as a full member. Security analysts have expressed concern that the competing claims to the Spratly Islands by Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan Brunei, Indonesia, the Philippines and China could trigger an armed clash even leading to possible war.

Speaking after China's meeting with Vietnam last night, a Chinese Foreign Ministry official said the countries had reached some consensus over the Spratly Islands, which the Chinese refer to as the Nansha Islands. A spokesman for Vice-Premier of the State Council and Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen, said: "We have agreed to seek a friendly solution, and if not, the problem areas should be shelved for a while. The Nanshas belong to China, but we are prepared to discuss the issue and resolve areas of conflict through peaceful means."

China is known to be concerned over reports that Vietnam's state oil company, Petro Vietnam, is drilling for oil in an area claimed by Hanoi as part of its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf. Vietnam, on the other hand, has branded as illegal a contract awarded there by China in 1992 to a United States oil drilling company, Crestone. China and Vietnam also announced that they had made progress on disputed border issues and had laid a good groundwork for peaceful negotiations.

Earlier in the day, the Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Roberto Romulo, met his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Manh Cam, for an extensive exchange on views on the South China Sea. The Philippines called on the need for all claimant states to continue the dialogue, in keeping with the intent of the Manila Declaration on the South China Sea issued by ASEAN foreign ministers in 1992.

Manila had been expected to complain to Vietnam about its activities on the barren islands, saying Hanoi had built lighthouses on a portion of the islands it claimed as its own. Vietnam reaffirmed that Hanoi supported multilateral negotiations with multilateral acceptance to manage South China Sea issues, and ascribed to the concept of peaceful dialogue for the resolution of disputes.

China also yesterday called for intensified scientific activity in the Spratly Islands, which they said would be for the benefit of all parties. This echoed an invitation yesterday from the Philippines to Vietnam for technical experts from the two countries to meet soon to prepare for a joint marine scientific cruise in the area. The Philippines even offered the use of one of its vessels for the collaborative endeavor.

China's statement on the Spratly Islands yesterday follows similar remarks on Thursday [21 July] by Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang: "On matters concerning disputes we for our part have all along been opposed to a settlement by force." "The position of the Chinese Government has been a consistent one. There are some differences on this issue between China and some countries but these countries are all friendly to China."

The ASEAN ministerial meeting closes today with the inaugural ASEAN regional forum and post ministerial conferences scheduled to begin on Monday for three days.

Nations Differ on Spratlys Talks Proposal

BK2407103594 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 24 Jul 94 p A2

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas backed away yesterday from a proposal to formalize talks among claimant countries to the Spratly Islands after it received a cool response from China, Vietnam and Malaysia.

Alatas, who earlier yesterday told reporters, "At some point there needs to be government involvement," said later in the day that he was only suggesting that ideas emerging from Indonesian-sponsored forums be taken up by some of the claimant governments for implementation.

The disputed islands, viewed by many as a potential flashpoint, are currently being discussed in technical workshops tasked with assessing the possibilities of joint cooperation.

Alatas' original proposal to elevate the talks to government level was reiterated by Jakarta's representative to the Asean meeting with China, but Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen did not address the matter.

Instead, Qian told the closed-door dialogue that he had already discussed the Spratlys issue in separate meetings with his counterparts from the Philippines and Vietnam and that they agreed to shelve their differences and go for cooperation, a source said.

"It looks like they don't agree to the Indonesian proposal," the source said, noting that Qian did not comment when pressed by Indonesia for China's response to the idea of formal talks. "In Asia, you don't say no, but if you don't comment on it, [it's] tantamount to rejecting it," KYODO quoted the source as saying.

Malaysia and Vietnam said that the workshops had proved useful in advancing understanding of the territorial disputes.

But they similarly stopped short of endorsing the Alatas plan.

China, which has laid claim to all of the Spratlys, fought a brief but bloody naval engagement with Vietnam in the area in 1988.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said after talks with Qian that Alatas' proposal merited further consideration.

Asked his reaction to the Indonesian proposal, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi said only that Malaysia "appreciated the workshops" held so far, adding there had been "some results in promoting understanding."

Cam said after the talks with Qian that both countries had resolved to "exercise self-restraint" in the Spratlys and "not do anything to make the situation deteriorate."

Beijing last week said its ships had blockaded a Vietnamese rig to stop it from drilling in a block 400 kms off Vietnam's southern coast.

"We will work together to settle these matters to keep it in line with the growing friendship between our two countries in the interest of both sides and the whole region," Cam said.

Regional Forum Addresses South China Sea Issue

OW2507135794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1337 GMT 25 Jul 94

[By Tim Johnson]

[Text] Bangkok, July 25 KYODO—Foreign ministers meeting in an 18-member forum on security in the Asia-Pacific region exchanged views Monday [25 July] on the potentially explosive issue of overlapping territorial claims in the South China Sea while China offered assurances of benign intentions.

In the inaugural meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Bangkok, Philippine Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo called for "a just, lasting and peaceful resolution of the conflicting sovereign and jurisdictional claims in the South China Sea."

Romulo made an implicit call on China to endorse a 1992 declaration by the Association of Southeast Asian

Nations (ASEAN) calling on parties to the South China Sea territorial disputes to reject the threat or use of force in pressing their claims.

He said pending a final settlement, "we can at least bring about an atmosphere of confidence and trust by explicitly and together endorsing the spirit and principles enshrined in the 1992 ASEAN declaration on the South China Sea."

China is the only one of the six South China Sea claimants not to have done so, having passed a law earlier this year sanctioning the use of military force to protect its claims in the potentially oil-rich area.

The Spratly chain of islands there is claimed wholly or in part by China, Taiwan and Vietnam, as well as by Brunei, Malaysia and the Philippines, members of ASEAN, which also includes Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand.

The Chinese and Vietnamese are also contesting sovereignty over the Paracel islands, another group of reefs, shoals and atolls in the South China Sea.

China had stated its opposition to the territorial issue being taken up multilaterally, insisting it can only be resolved bilaterally.

True to form, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen made no specific mention of the South China Sea issue in his ARF speech, stressing instead that China is "pursuing an independent foreign policy of peace."

"China does not engage in aggression and expansion, or seek hegemony," Qian assured the participants, which included the foreign ministers of Japan, Russia and Australia, as well as U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott.

Effectively reinforcing Beijing's claims in the South China Sea, where it has garrisoned troops on some islands, Qian said, "China does not seek any sphere of influence and does not have a single soldier stationed on foreign soil, nor does it have any military base abroad."

China has called for the territorial disputes to be shelved in favor of joint development of resources.

Romulo struck a harmonious note, proposing that the various countries advancing claims take an initial step in the direction of a future settlement by engaging in "certain noncontentious cooperative endeavors" in the disputed areas.

Thai Foreign Ministry Spokesman Suvidhya Simasakul told reporters that the forum members came up with "something concrete, something that would be good for the region."

He said the results of the meeting would be announced later in the day after participants end a working dinner.

It is believed that ARF members outside ASEAN will endorse the six-member grouping's treaty of amity and cooperation in Southeast Asia, the so-called Bali Treaty, which lays down a regional code of conduct and serves as the basis for the 1992 Declaration on the South China Sea.

Canadian Government officials said the ministers agreed to set into process an arrangement whereby there will be annual ARF ministerial meetings.

They said working-level officials will examine various proposals for confidence-building measures, partly based on papers so far submitted by Australia, Canada, Japan, Russia and South Korea.

Canada and Russia, for example, proposed a regional peacekeeping center project, while Malaysia and the Philippines called for a regional arms register to keep track of arms and defense expenditures in the interest of transparency.

Japan, meanwhile, suggested countries issue annual national defense white papers to show how they view the regional security situation, as well as to clarify military doctrines and capabilities.

Concern has been growing over the arms buildup in the Asia- Pacific region, which some experts predict will lead to a full- fledged arms race if early action is not taken.

Specific problems discussed at the meeting aside from the South China Sea were the situations in Cambodia, in Myanmar [Burma] and on the Korean peninsula.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said in his speech that it "remains to be seen how the leadership in North Korea will ensure total transparency of its nuclear program and a nonnuclear Korean peninsula in the aftermath of Kim Il-song, who was in power for 49 years."

He called for establishment of a "northeast Asia security dialogue" forum to consolidate peace and further improve the security environment in the subregion.

"Under the present power relations and strategic circumstances, northeast Asia is a unique area," Han said. "Northeast Asia needs its own security structure and relevant arrangements to supplement them."

Han said the proposed new forum would maintain a "cooperative, consultative" relationship with ARF. "The two forums will work in parallel to promote political and security cooperation in the Asia and Pacific region," he said.

Canadian officials said there was no decision reached on admitting new members into ARF. North Korea, India, Cambodia and Mongolia are among countries that have expressed an interest to join.

Reportage, Commentary on EAEC Proposal

Luncheon Meeting Scheduled

BK2407104694 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 24 Jul 94 p A2

[Text] Japan, China and South Korea have agreed to attend a luncheon with the Asean foreign ministers tomorrow to discuss general economic cooperation within the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC), Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri announced yesterday.

Prasong said Asean will outline its vision for the EAEC with all prospective members. Asean sees the forum as a consultative caucus within the framework of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum.

Tomorrow's lunch meeting will be the first meeting between the six Asean foreign ministers and the three prospective members of the EAEC. The controversial regional grouping initiated by Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamed Mahathir. The US, which is excluded, has strongly objected to the caucus.

Korean Assistant Foreign Minister Lee Chang-Choon said yesterday a report that the EAEC luncheon was proposed by South Korea was a misunderstanding.

He insisted that Seoul was "uncomfortable with the EAEC".

"The time is not ripe for the EAEC to be launched. Not only now, but even at the end of the year," he said.

However, he confirmed South Korea would attend the luncheon on the understanding that it would not specifically discuss the EAEC. He believed Japan would attend on the same basis.

Lee Chang-Choon revealed that Korea had suggested a breakfast meeting with Asean ministers to brief them on the situation on the Korean peninsula after the death of Kim Il-song.

A Thai official said tomorrow's luncheon would be an informal meeting to discuss a number of issues. EAEC would be one of the items on the agenda.

Japanese officials had earlier expressed reservations about the meeting, saying that Tokyo would not attend if it was to specifically discuss the EAEC.

Asean foreign ministers said in their joint communique yesterday that consultations between the association and potential members of the EAEC should continue.

Asean Secretary-General Ajit Singh has visited China, Japan and South Korea to sound out their opinions on the EAEC. He said the three countries want the caucus to be a loose consultative forum rather than a structured economic grouping.

Japan, ROK, PRC Agree on EAEC

OW2507094694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0931 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Bangkok, July 25 KYODO—Japan, South Korea [ROK] and China agreed Monday to help the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) sell the East Asia Economic Caucus proposal to its Western partners, including the United States, an ASEAN official said.

The agreement was reached during an informal luncheon attended by the foreign ministers of the six-member regional grouping, its dialogue partners Japan and South Korea, and ASEAN guest China.

The foreign ministers from the nine prospective members of the caucus are in Bangkok to attend the ASEAN ministerial meeting, the ASEAN regional forum, and the group's discussions with its dialogue partners.

"They all agreed that as we proceed with the EAEC, it is important to assure and reassure all our friends that what we are doing is not in any way inimical to the interests of the other parties and that we are not trying to derail the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) forum process," ASEAN Secretary General Ajit Singh said.

Singh, speaking to reporters after emerging from the informal luncheon, said the ministers also agreed to hold other informal meetings whenever the chance arises.

Japan had earlier voiced hesitance to join the caucus, first proposed by Malaysia and later adopted by ASEAN, because Washington is opposing its formation out of concern that it may become an economic bloc excluding the U.S.

Officials in Tokyo have said they did not want to add strain to U.S.-Japan ties already soured by the trade imbalance between the two countries.

Asked if Japan, South Korea and China have already expressed intention to join the caucus, Singh said "The fact that all three were there at the lunch shows that we are already discussing the various aspects of EAEC."

But he said the first thing to do is to assure everybody there is nothing suspicious about the EAEC.

Launching Date Not Discussed

BK2507115694 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0957 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Bangkok, July 25 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Japan, South Korea and China—the three prospective members of the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC)—on Monday agreed that ASEAN should proceed with the caucus but stopped short of making any commitment on whether they will join it.

Speaking to reporters after attending an informal luncheon between the six ASEAN foreign ministers and the two economic and one military giants or what is known as the 6 plus 3 session here, ASEAN Secretary-General Ajit Singh said: nobody has disagreed with the EAEC.

We would continue to develop the context and at the same time continue to talk among ourselves on the aspects of the EAEC and how we want to develop it, he said, and added that they did not discuss the date of the launching of the caucus.

Monday's meeting, referred to as lunch diplomacy, was the first meeting between the six ASEAN foreign ministers and the three prospective members. It was hosted by Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri.

Japan was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, South Korea by its Foreign Minister Dr Han Sung-chu and China by its Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

Ajit Singh said the EAEC was discussed specifically and they agreed that ASEAN proceed with the EAEC.

He said ASEAN assured and reassured the three prospective members that what we (ASEAN) are doing is not in any way inimical to the interest of other parties and that we will not try to derail the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) process nor are we going to compete with the APEC process.

We assured our friends that the EAEC is a loose consultative forum which would discuss issues, mostly economic.

So, basically this is agreed and they also agreed that they would continue to meet in this informal setting whenever the opportunity arises in other meetings and forums, he added.

Ajit Singh said: don't forget that what we have at the moment is only ASEAN's view and we also need to have inputs from China, South Korea and Japan.

He reiterated that consultations will continue and at the same time while we are doing this among ourselves, we would reassure our other friends and try to help them to overcome any misconception or misgivings they may have on the EAEC.

Ajit Singh said ASEAN was willing and ready to explain the concept of the EAEC to whoever any time any place.

I have already done this in Washington in May and we will have another opportunity during the 6 plus 1 session at the Post- Ministerial Conferences (PMC) from tomorrow to Thursday, he said.

Ajit Singh said whatever initiatives taken by ASEAN to get the EAEC off the ground should not be construed as anything suspicious or against the interest of any country.

He said ASEAN and the three prospective partners have agreed that they should go ahead and try to dispel any suspicion or misunderstanding on the EAEC.

He also said that he would inform the next ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) meeting on Monday's discussions. Ajit Singh also reiterated that there would be no change in the concept of the EAEC.

Australian Foreign Minister on EAEC

OW2507095994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Bangkok, July 25 KYODO—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Monday the proposed East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) remains an idea "whose time has not yet come" despite a luncheon meeting on it earlier in the day in Bangkok between foreign ministers of nine potential member countries.

"I think it's an idea whose time has not yet come," Evans told reporters after the talks among the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—and three outside countries—China, Japan and South Korea.

"The six-plus-three lunch was really a lunch between six-plus-one not very enthusiastic interlocutor and two even less enthusiastic interlocutors, as I understand it," Evans said.

He said there was "still very obvious uncertainty" among several of the participating countries at the lunch, which was held at Malaysia's behest to discuss its proposal for an all-Asian consultative grouping.

Australia, like the United States, argues that an EAEC would be inconsistent and even confrontational with the 17-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum initiated by Australia.

"We think that the main game is APEC, we think that's what's in everybody's interest to give priority to," Evans said.

"EAEC runs the risk, at best, of being a distraction from APEC, at worst, of creating divisions down the Pacific that will be unhelpful in achieving APEC's larger goals."

PRC Spokesman on 'New Prospects' for U.S. Ties

BK2507022294 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Jul 94 p 6

[Text] There are new prospects for further development and improvement of relations between China and the United States following American Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status granted to China.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guo Fang quoted his Foreign Minister Qian Qichen as talking with the US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott that both countries should cherish such good opportunities to develop relations.

"Mr Talbott said the two countries are now enjoying good momentum of development of their relations and the US hopes to further expand and strengthen contact with China," Mr Shen said.

Mr Talbott was also quoted as saying it was important for China and the US to strengthen their multi-lateral cooperation as the two countries were important nations and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

China has adopted a positive attitude and is also ready to have consultation with other countries concerned on questions of regional security Mr Shen said.

Kono, Russia's Kozyrev Cancel Planned Talks

OW2507055094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0526 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Bangkok, July 25 KYODO—Japanese and Russian Foreign Ministers Yohei Kono and Andrey Kozyrev canceled a scheduled meeting Monday morning, Japanese officials said.

The officials said the two sides could not arrange the schedule as Kono's arrival in Bangkok was delayed.

Kono and Kozyrev are in Bangkok to attend a regional security forum sponsored by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Russia's Kozyrev Promises To Visit Japan in 1994

OW2507090094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0846 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Bangkok, July 25 KYODO—Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev on Monday accepted an invitation from his Japanese counterpart Yohei Kono to visit Japan within this year, Japanese Government officials said.

The ministers agreed to work out the details of Kozyrev's visit at foreign ministerial talks during the United Nations General Assembly session in September.

They concurred that cooperation between Tokyo and Moscow is indispensable despite the absence of a bilateral peace treaty formally ending World War II enmity.

Kono offered the invitation in a short ad-hoc encounter with Kozyrev at a Bangkok hotel. Their originally scheduled bilateral talks were canceled as Kono's arrival was delayed.

Both ministers are in the Thai capital to attend a regional security forum sponsored by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Timing of SRV's ASEAN Entrance Viewed

BK2407093194 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 24 Jul 94 pp 1, 3

[Text] Vietnam hopes it can become a full member of Asean by December next year, but some Asean officials warn that the necessary preparations might not be completed by then.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said yesterday that cooperation with Asean members would allow his country to join by the time Asean leaders met for their summit in Thailand.

He was speaking after Asean had formally announced it was starting discussions aimed at receiving Vietnam as its seventh member.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo, who is a keen advocate of Vietnam's swift entry, also said membership ought to be achieved in time for the summit. Malaysia and Brunei, next year's host, are also keen.

That target date is not being treated as a foregone conclusion, however. At a press conference closing two days of Asean's annual ministerial meeting both Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri, who chaired the meetings, and Asean secretary-general Ajit Singh, who will participate in Vietnam's membership negotiations, declined to set a target date.

And Laksanachanthon Laohaphan, director-general of the Thai Foreign Ministry's Asean Department, said it was impossible to tell when the negotiations would be completed.

The negotiations are being described as "technical" even though some major decisions need to be taken. One of the undecided questions is whether Vietnam will be able to sign on to the Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA) programme after it has formally joined the group, officials say.

Mrs Laksanachanthon said the outcome could be one of three options: requiring Vietnam to join Asean and AFTA at the same time which would mean the longest delay in membership, allowing Vietnam to sign up to the two separately, or simultaneous membership of Asean and AFTA with special provisions allowing AFTA to be applied slower in Vietnam than in the rest of the group.

Tied up in these options is the question of whether Vietnam should participate in decisions on AFTA when it is not ready to implement the 15-year programme for lowering barriers on trade among Asean members.

Normally, Asean reaches decisions by consensus on all issues including AFTA. If Vietnam joins Asean but postpones participation in AFTA, new rules might have to be considered to allow decisions to be reached on AFTA that exclude Vietnam, officials suggest.

Related to this is the question of whether Vietnam will be willing to accept Asean decisions made in its absence. Asean's rule-by-consensus means that any absent country has to accept decisions taken by those members that are present.

In response to this matter, Mr Cam said this called for more discussions between Vietnam and Asean to understand further the mechanism and structure of Asean, and to see which issues were binding.

"From that point of time, we can then reach an agreement. We still have time to prepare," he said.

With Asean said to hold meetings at various levels and on various subjects for more than 200 days per year, Vietnam's inability to participate on@every occasion is a real possibility because of a shortage of qualified staff.

Mr Cam acknowledged yesterday that his country's shortage of people suitably qualified in technical subjects and in English, Asean's official language, was a serious handicap.

"There is the need for qualified Vietnamese officials to work with Asean and attend Asean meetings. There is also the need for English language skills to enable our officials to participate in the meetings and engage in discussions," said Mr Cam, who has himself attended crash courses in English.

Asean and Vietnam held a consultative session yesterday morning, which focussed on how to achieve better and more rapid preparations for Vietnam to become a full member soon.

"The session was characterised by common aspiration as well as common good will among Asean countries to assist Vietnam," he said.

Asean has recognised the manpower constraints of Vietnam. It is therefore proposing an incremental approach whereby Vietnam could gradually attend more and more meetings in tandem with its ability to attend, "until we can participate in all the meetings".

Vietnam is also informed that in the meantime, Asean itself recognises the need to look into the possibility of cutting down the more than 200 meetings it has on average each year while maintaining the efficiency of the activities.

Mr Cam said he believed that all Asean ministers wanted to see the negotiations concluded swiftly. While the Thai bureaucracy tends to treat the issue with caution, Thai Foreign Minister Prasong is said to have spoken strongly in favour of speed, a move some analysts interpret as a desire to show that Bangkok's old suspicions of Vietnam no longer exist.

Brunei is understood to be keen on seeing Asean admit Vietnam as a member in the next annual Asean Ministerial Meeting it is going to host, according to a source. This could be an unusual departure for Brunei which normally follows Singapore's policies—Singapore is more cautious on the speed of Vietnam's admission.

With regards to yet another aspect of Vietnam's preparedness to commit to the Asean Free Trade Area pact once it becomes a member, Minister Cam said Vietnam's commitment to AFTA could come after membership.

"I think it is practical that we could join AFTA at a later stage, because Asean membership and AFTA are not necessarily simultaneous. Vietnam will have to study more about AFTA in the process of understanding and familiarisation with Asean," he said.

Thailand's Chuan Supports UN-Burma Talks

BK2307113394 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Jul 94 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday threw his support behind Rangoon's agreement to hold talks with the United Nations on improvement of human rights in Burma, saying Thailand should play a helping hand in this initiative.

Government spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa, meanwhile, insisted that the invitation for Burma to attend the ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting as Thailand's special guest was part of the "constructive engagement" policy which was recognised by Thailand and ASEAN.

He said the policy was aimed at bringing about positive changes in Burma which should meet the wishes of the other countries.

Mr Aphisit said that Burma had been isolated and without change for a long time.

"But we believe that if Burma is allowed to have a role in the international forum and to understand the concepts of the other countries, they may be convinced to make changes in their country.

"If we understand this point, we will see that the objective is all the same. The only difference is the methods," he said.

The spokesman said time would prove which method or strategy would lead to more changes in Burma.

"This is not supporting human rights violations nor exploitation of another country," he claimed.

He said it was difficult for one country to resist the world's trend on democracy and human rights.

It was a good sign that Burma agreed to have dialogue with the UN and cautioned pessimists not to quickly jump to a conclusion, but to follow the events.

To prevent Thailand being accused of interference in Burma's affairs Mr Aphisit said the Government would try to proceed within a multilateral framework.

"But if there is anything special that we can help with, we are willing to cooperate," he said.

—Several Karen rebel officers and civilians were killed in a shootout following an argument between two rival factions at the Karen National Union Headquarters in Manerplaw a few days ago, a border intelligence source said.

Among the dead was Saw Bahdo Wee, a former KNU governor of Mergui and Tavoy districts.

Nearly 50 other people were wounded in the incident which took place on July 19 following an argument over ideology.

KNU President Gen Saw Bo Mya was wounded when he tried to mediate, the source said.

Australia's Evans Meets With Burma's Ohn Gyaw

BK2507021094 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Jul 94 p A4

[Text] Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans met his Burmese counterpart Ohn Gyaw yesterday and urged the ruling junta in Burma to begin "serious" talks with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi with the aim of achieving "a more democratic political system".

Evans told reporters upon leaving the meeting that he made it "absolutely clear that we regard the continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi as absolutely indefensible".

He said he told Ohn Gyaw that the Nobel Peace Prize laureate's five-year detention was "not only in breach of universal human rights principles, but also utterly unhelpful in terms of Myanmar's (Burma's) own membership of the larger international community."

The Australian minister, who is in Bangkok to attend the Asean security forum and Asean's Post-Ministerial Conference, spent about 40 minutes with Ohn Gyaw, who is here as guest of Thailand.

Evans said the decision by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) to enter into dialogue with UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali was "a heartening and welcoming development" and he wanted it to produce " some meat and some substance".

The Australian minister said he wants to see a dialogue process commence between Suu Kyi and Slorc, "not just a meeting to talk about the weather, but the process which is at least the beginning of a serious discussion about the evolution of a more democratic political system within the country", he said.

He declined to specify a new direction for Australian policy towards Burma, but said Canberra's "policy at the moment is neither to encourage nor discourage trade and investment with Myanmar ... but I would not anticipate any rapid change in this respect".

Australia was working out "the best possible way" to bringing about political and human rights reforms. "But whether that is better done by standing back as we were two or three years ago and arguing for sanctions, better done by continuing to encourage Asean to apply their obvious authority and stature with Myanmar ...better done in some other way is a matter which I still have an open mind (in) discussions that are coming up is week," said the Australian minister.

Evans said he would make use of is time in Bangkok for "a systematic detailed round of discussions" with his counterparts in the region and other parts of the world about various policy approaches towards Burma.

Evans is the second foreign minister here for the Asean meeting to meet Ohn Gyaw, after Prince Norodom Sirivut of Cambodia.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono is scheduled to meet Ohn Gyaw or 10 minutes this morning, according to Japanese officials.

Ohn Gyaw will make a courtesy call on Prime Minister Chuan Likphai this morning before returning to Burma in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, senior American officials said yesterday that Asean and the US both wanted to see Burma integrated into the world community but said they remained critical of the group's dialogue with the ruling military junta.

"We quite frankly have agreed to disagree over what the best approach is for bringing about that objective," one of the officials said on condition of anonymity.

The officials described as "unacceptable" a recent Burmese offer to free Aung San Suu Kyi if she went into a foreign exile for five years.

"In our view Burma has isolated itself, Burma has ostracized itself by its policies of repression and ... closing itself from the world," the official said. "We feel that the onus is on the Burmese regime to make itself eligible for inclusion in the kinds of structure and dialogues we want to be part of."

The officials said that denying Burma most higher level political and economic contact with the US and opposing arms sales to that country represented pressure. They added that the US delegation to the meetings with Asean, headed by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, would not meet Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw.

But the officials offered no new initiatives on Burma. The Clinton administration has been working on a coordinated policy, including possible economic sanctions, but progress has been slow.

"Time will tell whether the policy of engagement produces results. We certainly hope so," one official said.

Canberra Considers Shift in Policy Toward Burma

BK2407115094 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Australia is considering a policy shift toward closer ties with Burma to encourage the isolated military regime to speed up moves toward democracy and increase human rights. Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, said in Bangkok that while the Burmese regime had failed to implement adequate reforms there was merit in a shift toward increasing dealings with Burma.

Canberra's present policy now under review is to advocate military and economic sanctions against Burma, a policy of overt maximum pressure and minimum dialogue. However, Senator Evans said that over the past two or three years that policy was proving utterly unproductive. Senator Evans is in Bangkok for talks with ASEAN foreign ministers after their annual two-day meeting and other foreign ministers. He was due to meet Burma's foreign minister, Foreign Ohn Gyaw. He was a guest of the Thai Government.

Kono Asks Burmese Minister To Release Suu Kyi

OW2507060494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0525 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Bangkok, July 25 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono asked his Myanmarese [Burmese] counterpart Ohn Gyaw on Monday [25 July] for an early release from house arrest of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, Japanese officials said.

Kono was quoted as saying, "five years have passed since she has been placed under house arrest. The international community is interested in (the Myanmar military government's) dialogues with opposition leaders including Aung San Suu Kyi, as well as the start of dialogue with the United Nations."

Ohn Gyaw did not directly reply to Kono's request, saying, "the Myanmar Government has been considering what is necessary for the entire people, not for one person," according to the Japanese officials.

Ohn Gyaw and Kono are in Bangkok to attend a ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Nobel Peace Prize winner Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy (NLD) won the 1990 general election by a landslide, has been under house arrest since July 1989. The military junta refused to hand over power to the NLD.

Last Friday, Myanmar and a UN delegation began a process of dialogue in Bangkok on concerns raised in the world body about the military government's policies.

The meeting was the first to take place in the wake of a UN General Assembly resolution that called on UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to initiate dialogue with the Myanmar State Law and Order Restoration Council, as the junta is called.

Japan

Murayama on Clinton's Anger Over CIA Report

OW2207135494 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 22 Jul 94 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] A dinner meeting of ruling parties' Diet members from Oita Prefecture was held in a Japanese restaurant in Motoakasaka, Tokyo on 21 July. Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who is also from Oita, attended the meeting, where diners enjoyed a lively conversation about the recent Japan-U.S. summit meeting in Naples.

According to Seiichi Eto, a Liberal Democratic Party lower house member, and Katsuhiko Yokomitsu, an independent lower house member, Murayama recalled the following episode from the summit meeting.

At the summit meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton, Murayama ran through his background, including his experience of war which led him to decide to join the Social Democratic Party of Japan to seek liberty. After listening attentively to what Murayama told him, Clinton said: "This is what I wanted to hear. The information given by CIA is inaccurate." The president then showed he was angry at the fact the United States had failed to gather sufficient background information on Murayama before the summit meeting.

Kono's Agenda at ASEAN Forum: Security

OW2207122394 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 21 Jul 94 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono has decided to propose an Asian version of confidence-building measures (CBM), termed mutual reassurance measures (MRM), at the "ASEAN Regional Forum" to be held in Bangkok on 25 July. He will ask forum participants to make the military capability of each country more open through such steps as compiling and issuing "defense white papers," promoting exchanges between military personnel, and organizing UN peacekeeping operations (PKO) seminars, as part of MRM.

Kono will also reiterate the Murayama administration's policy of maintaining the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, and stress the importance of the U.S. military presence in the region. Furthermore, he will state the importance of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference, and affirm that the problem of North Korea's development of nuclear arms, and Japan's northern territories issue will continue to be dealt with within the bilateral frameworks of the United States and North Korea, and Japan and Russia respectively.

The Bangkok forum will be the first multinational conference on politics and security in Asia and the Pacific. Foreign ministers from 18 countries and areas, including the six ASEAN member states, Japan, the United States, ROK, China, and Russia, will attend the meeting.

'Kingpin' Ozawa Leaves for Talks in U.S.

OW2407055994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0536 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Tokyo, July 24 KYODO—Opposition kingpin Ichiro Ozawa left for New York on Sunday [24 July] for a week of talks with U.S. Government and congressional leaders. Most of Ozawa's business will take place in Washington and include a meeting with former President George Bush. He will return to Japan on July 31.

Ozawa is secretary general of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), a splinter group of the conservative-dominated Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). [passage omitted]

Continued Reports on U.S.-Japan Trade Talks

Tokyo May End Procurement Talks

OW2207130494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1241 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 22 KYODO—Japan may break off the "framework" trade talks with the United States over government procurement if the coming high-level talks fail, a senior Japanese trade ministry official said Friday [22 Jul].

Japan will reserve the option of ending the procurement talks when Sadayuki Hayashi, deputy foreign minister for economic affairs, meets deputy U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshevsky in Hong Kong on Saturday, said an official at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, who declined to be named.

"Hayashi will bring a compromise proposal the Japanese side finds reasonable enough for Washington to accept," the official said.

"Japan could not make any more compromises," he said. "If the U.S. rejects this proposal, the procurement talks will not get anywhere," he added.

The Hayashi-Barshevsky talks are intended to find "common ground" in the quantitative aspect of "objective criteria" as a tool to gauge progress in foreign access to Japan's telecommunications and medical equipment markets, the trade ministry official said.

The Japanese proposal to be offered to the U.S. is a compromise but it does not contain any promises on future trade performance, the official said.

The official said Tokyo has worked out the plan in line with the May accord with the U.S. to resume the framework talks, in which Washington made an explicit commitment not to seek numerical targets in prying open Japan's markets.

The coming Hong Kong meeting will be held ahead of a July 31 deadline imposed by Washington for possible trade sanctions over the government procurement dispute with Japan.

The office of the U.S. Trade Representative is to decide by the end of this month whether to force a settlement of the issue on threat of sanctions.

The U.S. Trade Office is now investigating if Japan has discriminated against U.S. firms in awarding government contracts.

Depending on the results of the probe, Washington is expected to commence procedures for trade sanctions on the basis of Title VII of the 1988 Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act.

The provision empowers the U.S. Government to take punitive steps against countries engaged in unfair trade practices in government procurement.

The Japanese trade ministry official said the U.S. appears prepared to name Japan as an unfair trade partner in government procurement if the Hong Kong talks do not produce intended results.

Washington has put off action against Japan twice over the procurement issue, one of the three priority sectors under the framework talks, citing the political confusion in Japan.

The trade ministry official said he is concerned the possible ending of the government procurement talks may affect the remaining priority sectors—insurance trade, and trade in autos and auto parts.

'Plate Glass' Survey Rejected

OW2307192494 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 23 Jul 94 Morning Edition p 5

[Text] In the negotiations on the plate glass sector under the Japanese-U.S. economic framework talks that were held for two days from 20 July to 21 July in Washington, the U.S. side asked that Japan survey the activities of keiretsu [trading practices between affiliated enterprises] involving plate glass. In response, the Fair Trade Commission [FTC] said, "Last year, we made public the results of our survey on the plate glass distribution system, and we have since kept watching how the plate glass industry has improved its trading practices." In this way, the FTC indicated the difficulty of conducting another survey on keiretsu activities involving plate glass. The FTC plans to make public in August the results of its survey on the improvement in trading practices by the plate glass industry. The FTC plans to respond to the U.S. request by promising to continue monitoring trading practices in the plate glass sector.

Last June, the FTC made public the results of its survey on how plate glass is distributed. At the time, the FTC pointed out that the progressive rebate system and some trading practices run counter to a policy of competition, and it then asked the plate glass industry to address them. Last December, the FTC made public the results of another survey on trading practices involving plate glass. While making public the results of the survey, the FTC highly praised Japanese plate glass makers for "working sincerely to improve their trading practices, and promised that it will keep observing how they improve their trading practices in the future."

In the Washington negotiations on the plate glass sector, the U.S. side is said to have asked Japan to survey the situation wherein three major plate glass makers are engaged in keiretsu activities with about 5,000 plate glass wholesalers. The FTC's position is that it does not need to conduct the U.S.-requested survey because it has already carried out the same survey. The FTC plans to try to make the U.S. side understand its position by promising that it will continue to monitor how the plate glass industry improves its trading practices on the basis of the 1993 June survey.

Deregulation Talks on 4 Aug

OW2307192094 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 20 Jul 94 Morning Edition p 5

[Text] It has been decided that "negotiations on deregulation and policies to help promote competition" will be held from 4 August in Washington. This is one of the five additional priority areas in the Japanese-U.S. framework trade talks. Negotiations are to focus on four pillars: deregulation, distribution, policies to help promote competition, and transparency in administrative procedures. It is likely that the United States will ask Japan to implement wide-ranging measures which will go beyond a package of measures that Japan compiled in late June, including revising or abolishing the Large-Scale Retail Store Law, and to incorporate these in a five-year deregulation program that Japan plans to compile by next spring. However, rough sailing is expected in the trade negotiations because there are voices in some quarters of the Japanese Government urging that a cautious approach be taken.

The Japanese and U.S. Governments agreed in late May to resume suspended negotiations on the three priority areas (government procurement, insurance, and automobiles and auto parts) in the bilateral framework trade talks. It was also agreed at that time that both governments would negotiate on five additional trade sectors. Of these, negotiations have already begun on intellectual property rights, sheet glass, and financial services. Deregulation and policies to help promote competition and forestry products were the remaining areas to be discussed.

The planned talks in Washington will last for two days, and negotiating officials from the Foreign Ministry, the Fair Trade Commission [FTC], and other relevant Japanese Government agencies and negotiating officials from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Department of Justice, and other relevant U.S. Government agencies will be attending.

The Japanese Government just recently compiled in late June a comprehensive package of deregulatory measures. However, in some quarters of the U.S. Government, there have been voices asserting that "the package is not satisfactory, and more drastic measures are necessary." As for Japanese policies to help promote competition, U.S. Government officials still complain that "because the Antimonoploy Law is not strictly enforced, oligopoly has been retained in some industries, resulting in U.S. firms being denied access to Japanese markets."

According to a government source, it is expected that in the area of deregulation—one of the four pillars of the planned trade negotiations—the United States will express its interest in various fields, including the entry by U.S. investment consulting firms in the annuity trust services field and the complete liberalization of the connecting of communications circuits among telecommunications companies. As for the distribution system, the United States is expected to ask Japan to either abolish its Large-Scale Retail Store Law or, as the next best alternative, to undertake a drastic review of it. As for the latter case, the United States is expected to make such requests as speeding up the issuing of business licenses for new large-scale retail stores and abolishing regulations governing such stores' days and hours of operation.

As for policies to help promote competition, the United States is likely to present Japan with such requests as enforcing the Antimonopoly Law more strictly, improving the FTC's investigation process, and eliminating exclusive trade practices by business groups.

Regarding transparency in administrative procedures, the bilateral negotiations are expected to focus on such matters as setting up a system under which administrative information will be publicized and promoting the participation of foreigners in the council that is working on this issue.

Hong Kong Talks Reviewed

OW2407073594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0720 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Hong Kong, July 24 KYODO—Trade talks between senior Japanese and U.S. officials on Japan's public-sector procurement in telecommunications and medical equipment held over the weekend in Hong Kong yielded no tangible results.

U.S. Deputy Trade Representative Charlene Barshevsky and Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs Sadayuki Hayashi held the trade framework talks on Saturday and Sunday.

"We had extremely cordial and productive talks...We and our Japanese counterparts will remain in close contact," Barshevsky told reporters, emerging from the second day of talks Sunday.

Barshevsky declined to comment on whether the Japanese side had put forward new proposals or whether the two sides were any closer to an agreement over the contentious issue of setting "objective criteria" to measure Japan's market openness.

Hayashi told reporters that Japan and the United States would discuss "in a couple of days" when to hold their next meeting.

But Hayashi refused to say whether the talks would be elevated from the current vice-ministerial level or whether they would be held before the July 31 deadline, imposed by Washington for possible launching of sanctions proceedings against Tokyo.

U.S. Action Worries FTC

OW2507011894 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 16 Jul 94 Morning Edition p 10

["Radar" column article by unidentified NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reporters: "Japanese and Other Companies Violate the U.S. Antitrust Law—the Fair Trade Commission Is Concerned About the Extraterritorial Application of the U.S. Antitrust Law"]

[Text] The U.S. Department of Justice [DOJ] has imposed fines on the New Oji Paper Company's local affiliated firm in the United States and other firms for cartel practices in manipulating the prices of thermosensitive paper used for facsimiles. In this connection, the prevailing view within the papermaking industry is that "Japanese papermakers' lack of a sense of abiding by the antitrust law has been revealed in the United States." However, this case should not be overlooked just because it "took place in the United States." Because the DOJ is elated by the results of its first joint survey carried out with the Canadian Government, it intends to ask the Japanese Government to cooperate in enforcing the antitrust law. Because the Fair Trade Commission [FTC] is nervous about the issue, it is better for Japanese companies to be cautious about observing the law on the Japanese market as well, like they are on the U.S. market.

Those who have agreed to pay penalties are: an affiliated company which was set up by the former Kanzaki Paper Manufacturing Company in the United States; the then president of the affiliated company, the Mitsubishi Corporation; and its affiliated company in the United States. They had tried to raise the price of thermosensitive paper in cooperation by contacting each other by telephone and in meetings from 1991 through 1992.

The New Oji Paper Company's board of directors discussed the details of its negotiations with both U.S. and Canadian justice officials at its meeting held in early July. However, there was no severe criticism of its cartel practices at the meeting. A company executive said: "It was necessary to avoid suffering a deficit. It seems that the head office has not strictly instructed the affiliated firm to be cautious about the antitrust law." A managing director of a major paper company said: "The papermaking industry is a domestic-demand-oriented business. No new companies enter the market. Aside from the profits, there is also a steady demand for paper products. Companies in the paper industry greatly behave as with a pack mentality, and they are defenseless against the antitrust law." It is also said that there still exists a "mutual understanding of each other's delicate feelings" among paper companies.

However, the U.S. DOJ has begun keeping its eye on acts which violate the antitrust law on foreign markets. The FTC is taking a superficially calm attitude, saying: "Because the recent cartel case took place in the United States, it is not regarded as an extraterritorial application of the U.S. antitrust law" (according to the FTC's public relations department). Because the DOJ intends to ask Japan to conclude an antitrust agreement in a bid to strengthen the enforcement of the extraterritorial application of the U.S. antitrust law, the FTC has expressed concern, saying that the DOJ's "latest exposure of the cartel case is intended to exert pressure on Japan" as stated by a senior FTC official.

The U.S. DOJ shifted in April 1992 its traditional, cautious stand on the extraterritorial application of the antitrust law, stating that it "will undertake executive measures of the antitrust law against actions which are carried out on foreign markets to regulate U.S. exports." In response, the FTC issued a statement immediately after the U.S. DOJ announced its decision. Claiming that this will violate both sides' jurisdictions, the FTC expressed "regret" over the U.S. decision and asked the United States to take a cautious stand.

The Clinton administration is said to have a positive stand on the extraterritorial application of the U.S. antitrust law. The DOJ is showing its intention to ask Japan to conclude an antitrust agreement which will enable Japan to cooperate with the United States in investigations and providing information. The FTC, which is negative about concluding such an agreement, is concerned about U.S. moves. However, it has failed to come up with measures to deal with cross-border cartel practices amid the current trend of economic globalization.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI], which has already issued some instructions on combating cartels, said in a cool-headed manner: "It is advisable for antitrust authorities in each nation to strictly crack down on illegal acts. We have no intention of defending Japanese companies" as stated by the MITI's Paper Pulp and Printing Industry Division. The Japanese paper industry should not view the recent case nonchalantly.

Tokyo on Semiconductor Accord

OW2507022394 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 22 Jul 94 Morning Edition p 11

[Text] A meeting to review the possibility of suspending the Japan-U.S. semiconductor accord—designed to urge U.S. semiconductor makers to make inroads into the Japanese market—before its expiration date will be held in Washington on 26 July. In this regard, the United States is assuming a rigid stance, and it is likely that the accord will be continued at this time. However, Japan plans to strongly point out the fact that although Japanese semiconductor makers had overwhelming leadership in the field of memory chips in 1986 when the accord was signed, the United States has regained preeminence in such areas as the production of microprocessor units (MPU's). The industrial circles want to use the meeting as a chance to abolish the accord when its term expires two years later. Japan wants to abolish the accord because the confrontational relationship, which was said to be a precondition to the bilateral accord, has been eased, thanks to cooperative ties between Japan and the United States in some areas, including joint development of semiconductors.

At the meeting, discussions will be focused on whether the term of the accord, which is said to expire in July 1996, should be discontinued before that date. Japan wants to insist on early termination of the accord by citing, among other things, that foreign semiconductor makers' market share in Japan exceeds 20 percent, even by U.S. calculations. It is certain that the United States will oppose this. Officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and other ministries are already saying: "Since both countries' consent is needed, our wish will not be realized if the United States opposes it."

However, a growing number of officials in Japanese semiconductor circles are saying that "even if we cannot kill it this time, the accord will naturally be abolished when its term expires in 1996."

The "optimistic view" in the industrial circles is supported by the change in power relations between Japan and the United States in the semiconductor field.

According to a survey by Data Quest, which is a major high-tech survey company in the United States, the United States and Canada controlled 32.1 percent of the semiconductor markets in the world in 1993. Japan's market share was 29.1 percent at that time. The market share of U.S.-affiliated manufacturers was 41.7 percent, slightly exceeding the 41.3 percent of Japanese manufacturers. Although Japan had dominated semiconductor markets in 1986, the trend has been reversed.

Tori Sato (vice president of Hitachi, Ltd.), chairman of the Foreign-Made Semiconductor Users' Council (UCOM)—a group established by major electric-appliance makers to help expand the procurement of foreign-produced semiconductors—explains: "With help from the demand for videotape recorders and other electrical appliances in the second half of the 1980's, Japan maintained supremacy in the production of memory chips. But Japan's need for computer memory chips increased, and the demand structure has changed. Therefore, we now have to use U.S.-made semiconductors such as MPU's. U.S. producers overwhelmingly dominate the field of MPU production." Japanese semiconductor makers moved their production strongholds to Southeast Asia, causing the Japanese market to contract.

According to a report, which the Electric Industries' Association of Japan prepared for the United States in March this year, the market share of foreign-made semiconductors in Japan grew to 76.6 percent during the April-September period in 1993. Foreign-made semiconductors also took over 63.6 percent of the flash memory market (special memory chips which are capable of electronically erasing all memories and can be used for rewriting).

Moreover, not only the positions of Japan and the United States have been reversed, but also Japanese and U.S. makers are promoting technological cooperation in the field of modern technologies by going over the boundary of the two countries. According to Data Quest, 700 large and small contracts for technological cooperation have been signed between Japanese and foreign semiconductor makers between 1985 and 1992. Of late, Japanese and South Korean companies have agreed to cooperate with each other.

The amount of investment in semiconductor equipment is growing rapidly and it is said that development costs in the area of modern technologies has reached several billion yen. The risks are too great for one company to bear, and ties of mutual reliance are deepening between Japan and the United States.

Progress in Talks 'Hinted'

OW2507091194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0900 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito hinted Monday that Japanese and U.S. trade negotiators made some progress in bilateral trade "framework" talks over the weekend on government procurement.

"I think you can say that there has been progress" at the vice ministerial trade talks in Hong Kong, Saito told a press conference without elaborating.

He said Japan and the United States were able to deepen mutual understanding in the hourlong negotiations in Hong Kong and that the Japanese side was able to convey its eagerness to solve the stalemated trade talks.

Saito said the two sides are to decide on the coming negotiation schedules within several days.

'Objective Criteria' Conflict

OW2507054594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0519 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Japanese and U.S. trade negotiators are still stuck on the issue of setting "objective criteria" to measure Japan's market access despite a fresh proposal laid out by Japan during the weekend vice ministerial trade talks in Hong Kong, Japanese Government sources said Monday.

The sources said Japan will continue to seek ways to avert trade sanctions threatened by Washington. The U.S. Government has said if the two sides do not solve a dispute over Japan's public-sector procurement by the end of the month, it may impose punitive sanctions under its 1988 Trade Act.

Tokyo may propose further measures to open up bidding on government projects, but the United States insists "objective criteria" be defined as a standard aimed at boosting the purchase of imports, the sources said.

During the weekend Hong Kong talks, Japan proposed adding "changes and trends" to Japan's procurement of foreign goods and bids tendered by foreign companies to one of the "objective criteria" as well as to hold annual meetings to verify market access improvements.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama told reporters Monday negotiations are in a tense state but Japan is still trying to solve the dispute by the end of the month.

Upcoming Framework Talks Viewed

OW2507132494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1306 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Japan and the United States are expected to resume crucial discussions in Washington Thursday [28 July] on Japanese Government procurement as part of negotiations for a new framework for bilateral trade, government sources said Monday.

The sources said the vice ministerial talks will be held by Sadayuki Hayashi, deputy foreign minister for economic affairs, and Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky.

The U.S. Administration has warned it will go ahead with procedures for economic sanctions against Japan unless agreement is reached on Japanese procurement of telecommunications and medical equipment by the end of July.

Hayashi and Barshefsky held two days of talks in Hong Kong Saturday and Sunday without producing tangible results.

The sources said Barshefsky expressed dissatisfaction with Japanese compromise proposals on objective criteria for measuring progress in the opening of the Japanese telecommunications and medical equipment markets.

The proposals included annual intergovernmental consultations to gauge how far foreign access to Japanese Government procurement has been improved, they said.

Kubo Hints at Watered Down U.S. Security Pact

OW2507155694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Misawa, Japan, July 25 KYODO—Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan—SDPJ] Secretary General

Wataru Kubo hinted Monday [25 July] at readiness to water down the character of the Japan-U.S. security treaty as a military alliance.

"Now that we obtained power, we have become capable of watering down and nullifying an aspect of the Japan-U.S. security treaty as a military alliance, for the first time, as much as possible," Kubo said.

Kubo was speaking to a seminar of the Japan Teachers Union (Nikkyoso) in this northeastern Japan city that houses a U.S. Air Force base whose presence is guaranteed by the security pact. Nikkyoso is one of the SDP's main support bases.

The SDP "will seek to create an unarmed Japan by the ultimate goal of disarmament by expediting disarmament step by step by making the recent recognition" of the constitutionality of the Self-Defense Forces "starting point," Kubo said.

Kubo was apparently referring to recent parliamentary statements by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, also SDP chairman, that his administration recognizes the legitimacy of the SDP as a constitutional force.

"We will not forget the need to uphold the Constitution as the SDP's political ideals," he said.

Meanwhile, Nikkyoso Chairman Eiichi Yokoyama told the same seminar the union will not approve of Murayama's other statements in the Diet that his administration will authorize teachers to describe the "hinomaru" [unofficial national] flag and "Kimigayo" song as the national flag and anthem.

Nikkyoso and other trade unions have blasted successive governments for promoting the Kimigayo and hiromaru as national flag and anthem, as they were used before and during World War II as symbols of Japan's militarism.

Yokoyama said, "It is unacceptable for the government to force us to approve of the hiromaru and others, when we think from the standpoint of people's sovereignty and freedom of thought."

"We should make it clear that we will disapprove of things that run counter to the ideals upheld by Nikkyoso," he said, adding the union will pressure the Murayama administration to reverse its avowed scrapping of the SDP's longtime opposition to the hinomaru and Kimigayo.

He also criticized Murayama for scrapping the tenet of promoting "unarmed neutrality" for Japan.

"The SDP should not easily alter its positions on issues on which its identity hinges upon," he warned.

Upper House Committee Discusses U.S. Bases

OW2407190694 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 22 Jul 94 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Tokyo—The House of Representatives' Special Committee on Okinawa and Northern Problems (chaired by Junji Nishime) held a meeting on 21 July. The committee discussed and approved the call of Kosuke Uehara and eight other people for a review of the bill for enacting the special law on Okinawa Prefecture during the Diet recess period. This bill concerns the use of lands used as U.S. military bases after their return to landlords. Because the process of extending deliberations on this bill has been undertaken, full- scale deliberations on the bill will start during the next Diet session.

At the opening of the committee meeting, Sadatoshi Ozato, director general of the Okinawa Development Agency, commented on his first visit to Okinawa, saying: "After listening to the voices of the people of the prefecture, I have realized that Okinawa still has various problems even though 22 years have passed since its reversion to Japan. I would like to tackle these problems together with the Okinawan people."

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono said: "Many U.S. bases are concentrated on Okinawa, and the local people strongly want to reduce them. I will make further efforts [to improve the situation] while trying to maintain harmony with the local people."

Further Reports on Issues Related to DPRK

Murayama on U.S.-DPRK Talks

OW2307201894 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 22 Jul 94 Evening Edition p 1

[Text] During a recent unofficial working-level meeting, the United States and North Korea agreed to resume high-level talks in the first week of August to discuss the suspected development of nuclear weapons by the DPRK (North Korea).

At the prime minister's official residence on the morning of 22 July, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama was asked by reporters to comment on this agreement.

He said: "This is good. I hope they will make efforts to resolve the nuclear issue through dialogue."

In this way, Murayama welcomed the resumption of talks between the United States and North Korea following the death of President Kim Il-song and expressed the hope that the nuclear issue could be resolved through talks.

DPRK Situation To Be Analyzed

OW2207223194 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 21 Jul 94 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] On 20 July, Yohei Kono, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' [MOFA] specialists on the DPRK to speed up their analyses of the future North Korean situation.

The MOFA believes that North Korea's domestic and foreign policies under the Kim Chong-il regime will remain the same as those of the Kim Il-song era and that the U.S.-DPRK talks will be resumed in the near future. Because North and South Korea are condemning each other, however, over the ROK Government's ban on those wishing to visit Pyongyang to pay their condolences [on Kim Il-song's death], the MOFA is concerned about the uncertain future of dialogue between the two countries.

It is inevitable that the resumption of the suspended Japanese- DPRK negotiations on normalizing diplomatic ties will be delayed should the North-South dialogue become stagnant. It seems that such a delay will have a major impact on Japanese-DPRK relations, too.

The MOFA is of the opinion that the Kim Chong-il regime will actually be formed by 20 July [date as published] and that Secretary Kim will be elected, as a successor to President Kim, to the post of general secretary at a general meeting of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee to be held soon. Moreover, the MOFA believes it is certain that sooner or later Secretary Kim will be elected president of the Supreme People's Assembly. The same ministry, however, also believes that there will be a time gap between his election to the posts of general secretary and president.

As for the fact that Secretary Kim did not speak at the memorial ceremony on 20 July, some top Foreign Ministry official are saying: "It is a custom in Japan, too, that a chief mourner does not speak at a memorial service. Instead, a chairman of a funeral committee makes a speech." The MOFA will analyze the situation rapidly to ascertain whether this is related to a power struggle within the North Korean leadership.

It was felt that the DPRK Government, at the funeral and memorial services, was assuming the stand of attaching importance to the General Assembly of Korean Residents in Japan. The MOFA believes, however, that it is "too early" to conclude that this is a sign of attaching importance to Japan.

Gallucci on Talks With DPRK

OW2207142894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1419 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 22 KYODO—A U.S. official said Friday [22 Jul] talks with North Korea in August will focus on Pyongyang's request for help in building a light water reactor in return for freezing its nuclear program, ministry officials said Friday.

The officials said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci made the statement while discussing North Korea's nuclear development program with Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito.

North korea has already said it would like to switch from its current graphite-moderated reactor to a light water reactor, which produces less plutonium, a key ingredient of nulcear bombs, but lacks the technology and finances and wants help from the United States and Japan in making the switch.

The officials said that during his talks with Kono and Saito, Gallucci explained his views on a third round of high level U.S-North Korea talks set to reopen Aug. 5 in Geneva. Gallucci is the chief U.S. negotiator with North Korea.

The officials said Kono told Gallucci Japan has "a considerable interest" in the question of North Korea's nuclear program as "a problem for Japan itself."

Commenting on the fact that Japan's help will be vital in helping to finance a light water reactor, Kono said Japan and the U.S. will have to continue to consult each other, according to the officials.

They said Gallucci also outlined the contents of high-level U.S.-North Korean talks held July 8. The talks stalled after the death of North Korean leader Kim Il-song.

The officials said they also exchanged opinions on possible North Korean reaction to U.S. demands for a complete restoration of the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

North Korea's refusal to allow full IAEA inspections has been a stumbling block to improving relations between it and the U.S. since the U.S. suspects North Korea is using its nuclear facilities to develop nuclear weapons.

The officials said the Japanese side expressed hope that the issue of inspections can be solved through the talks.

* Government Handling Criticized

942B0090A Tokyo SEKAI in Japanese May 94 pp 72-76

[Article by Tsuyoshi Yamamoto, commentator on East Asian international relations: "What Japanese Diplomacy Should Do: Pondering the Tension on the Korean Peninsula"]

[Text] At a time when one is looking forward to cherry blossoms being at their peak, they have barely begun to bloom. Then one either rejoices that they have begun to bloom, thinking "the day when they will be in full bloom is near," and hopes that warm days will continue, or one tries to scatter those blossoms which have bloomed, thinking "what I am waiting for is full bloom, not partial bloom." Figuratively speaking, when I look at the Japanese Government's response to the so-called "nuclear suspicions" concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), it feels very much like the latter. There would not be unreasonable talk like this if the Japanese Government truly hoped for the blossoms to be at their peak, so I suspect it is not realy looking forward to that. To be more precise, when I look at the Japanese Government's policy toward North Korea, I even get the impression that, while hoisting the banner of easing the tensions on the Korean peninsula, in fact, the Japanese Government may be judging that it would be profitable to Japan to keep the Korean peninsula in a fixed state of tension by leaving North Korea in a closed condition, and continuing to brand it an "abnormal nation" and an "evil empire." When I think that way, the actions of the Japanese Government are easy to understand.

How the Japanese Government Stands Out

There was the agreement at the U.S.-North Korea high-level talks in June 1993, the agreement at the second round of talks, which was held in July 1993, and a package agreement at the U.S.-North Korea working-level talks in December (30 December); in the process of negotiation between North Korea and the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) which followed on from that, it was further agreed that North Korea would accept inspection of seven nuclear-related facilities (15 February), but in connection with the content of that agreement, North Korea rejected one part of the inspections, and as the result there was a resolution in the Special Board of the IAEA to again refer the matter to the UN Security Council (21 March). The reaction of the Japanese Government at each point was the contradictory and negative one of "partial blooming is no use."

That is not all, the Japanese Government is intensifying a tilt toward sanctions rather than negotiation. That is, at the 11 February press conference following the U.S. summit talks, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said, "If economic sanctions emerge from the UN Security Council, Japan will respond by taking whatever measures it can within the scope permitted by law," and at a meeting of the lower house Budget Committee after he returned to Japan (18 February), he explained that within the scope of the law meant within the scope of the Constitution, and that he also approved of revising laws within that scope. Then, on 21 February, in connection with North Korea having decided to accept inspections, he made clear a policy of exerting still more pressure on North Korea, saying, "the problem will not be solved by only accepting inspection of seven places. Such things as complete retraction of North Korea's withdrawal from the NPT (nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty), acceptance of special inspection of unreported facilities, and a declaration of denuclearization of North and South Korea are necessary. We want to appeal to North Korea as much as possible, by whatever method possible, in cooperation with the United States, South Korea, and China" (SANKEI SHIMBUN 23 February 1994). And it is reported that when Prime Minister Hosokawa visited China and met with Premier Li Peng (20 March 1994), he stated, "I have great apprehension. The patience of the international community is nearing its limit," and sought cooperation, saying, "Close cooperation among Japan, China, the United States, and South Korea is important. China can play an important role in getting North Korea to accurately grasp the mood of the international community" (ASAHI SHIMBUN 21 March 1994). After returning to Japan, at an informal meeting of cabinet ministers on 22 March the prime minister said, "I want to closely observe North Korea's moves over about the next week to 10 days, and take the most prudent measures," and directed such measures as revision of relevent laws in preparation for economic sanctions.

Furthermore, at a 24 March meeting to welcome President Kim Yong-sam, Prime Minister Hosokawa stated, as the way to proceed in the future, "While the international community will unite and adopt a firm posture, it is important that it apply measures in stages, while leaving thoughout a window for dialogue with North Korea" (ASAHI SHIMBUN 25 March), and promised on Japan's part "responsible measures within the limits of the Constitution." At this time there was no movement in the United Nations to impose economic sanctions against North Korea. On 21 March the United States began informal consultation with permanent members of the Security Council for the purpose of presenting to the Security Council a draft resolution requesting that North Korea accept nuclear inspection, but economic sanctions were not incorporated in that draft resolution. China persistently sought a solution by talks, and was negative toward even placing the matter before the Security Council. Among Asian countries as well, Malaysia said "the kind of method by which the North Korean side would feel pressure is not desirable" (Prime Minister Mahathir, 22 March), and "exhibited alarm at U.S. leadership standing out in discussions at the UN Security Council" (SANKEI SHIMBUN 23 March). And the Philippine Government expressed strong apprehension, saying, "If you isolate North Korea, it will invite miscalculation in connection with nuclear weapons and threaten the security of the entire Asia-Pacific region" (ASAHI SHIMBUN 26 March). If we exclude the United States and South Korea, the principals who have talks with North Korea, the way in which Japan stands out is conspicuous.

When one looks back over the one year since North Korea decided to withdraw from the NPT and ponders what kind of efforts the Japanese Government has made to keep North Korea in the NPT, one can say that there have been none. No effort whatsoever has been made by Japan to solve the problem. Is it not true that Japan has done nothing beyond continuing to shout: "North Korea, dispel the suspicions about nuclear weapons! China, exert influence on North Korea!" And from beginning to end Japan has been in a posture of pointing out the negative aspect when agreements between North Korea and the United States or the IAEA fail to solve the problem.

The Ball Is in Japan's Court

If it says that this problem is an important one to Japan, has the Japanese government, for that reason, made a constructive proposal even once? Not even once. Did it at least have a posture of quietly watching U.S.-North

Korea negotiations or negotiations between North Korea and the IAEA? Not that either. Although it talks about close cooperation among Japan, the United States, and South Korea, or among Japan, the United States, South Korea, and China, and although the United States and South Korea each have negotiations with North Korea, and China is carrying on quiet persuasion while maintaining friendly relations with North Korea, has the Japanese Government conferred with North Korea even once? Not once.

It is not that a framework for dialogue between Japan and North Korea does not exist. It is the "Conference on Normalization of Japan-North Korean Relations." But that conference continues to be suspended after the eighth session, which was held in November 1992. The direct cause is the Yi Yon-hui problem. I sense something unclear in the intention of the Japanese Government that brought up the Yi Yon-hui problem at the normalization conference, but even if we put that aside, it is clear that it violates the framework of the negotiations, on which both sides agreed. That is the very reason why it had to be separated from the negotiations and discussed informally. And at the working level talks on that problem at the eighth session, the North Korean side said "there is no need to listen further to a problem which is not related to us," and broke off the working-level talks; in response to which the Japanese side said that it could not agree to the conference unless the working level talks were reopened, and announced the end of negotiations. The one that broke off the conference was the Japanese side, not the North Korean side. Consequently, for the purpose of reopening the conference, the ball is in Japan's court, not in North Korea's. This means that it is a situation in which even if the North Korean side wants to reopen the conference, it cannot make the proposal from the North Korean side. If the Japanese had made a proposal to reopen the conference which took North Korea's position (face, to put it in common terms) into consideration, North Korea would probably have accepted it. But the Japanese Government did not do that either.

There is no reason for the structure of distrust that has accumulated in the Korean peninsula for almost half a century since the end of World War II to be solved in one day. Patient dialogue is necessary in order to create mutual trust. One should probably say that the Japanese Government alone is neglecting this.

At the Japan-North Korea conference the Japanese Government made the question of North Korean nuclear weapons a precondition from the very beginning. That is, it made unconditional conclusion of a security agreement with the IAEA a precondition for normalization. But North Korea signed a security agreement (30 January 1992), so it looked as though this problem was solved. However, even if the conference had continued to be held after the eighth session, the Japanese side would probably have claimed a new nuclear suspicion as a precondition because of its initial policy. But to North Korea that is a problem which can be solved only by negotiation with the United States, so there is no meaning in Japan-North Korea negotiations so long as Japan makes it a precondition. It would naturally be an obstacle to negotiation. If such is the case, we should probably say that it was a mistake to entangle questions between the United States and North Korea or between the IAEA and North Korea in the normalization of Japan-North Korea relations, which is, basically, a problem between the two countries. Even though one talks of cooperation among Japan, the United States, and South Korea, it is not supposed to be Japan claiming as a precondition its speaking on behalf of the United States and South Korea at the negotiations for normalizing relations. Is it not a matter of the respective parties trying to create trust with North Korea in negotiations on their respective problems?

If We Advance Toward Sanctions

Speaking in regard to the agreements between North Korea and the United States or the IAEA, it is difficult for a third party to judge which side violated the agreement on nuclear inspection, because each side is asserting its own rightness. But what I would like to point out is that nuclear inspection is not simply a technical question, but has become a conspicuously political question which involves the respective national strategies and national interests of the United States, South Korea, and North Korea. What the United States is pursuing with the highest priority is prevention of nuclear proliferation, that is, to keep North Korea within the framework of the NPT. As for a Korean peninsula on which no nuclear weapons exist, South Korea and Japan, and China as well, occupy the same position. In contrast to this, what North Korea is pursuing is judged to be prevention of the collapse of its government, and for that purpose, improvement in its relations with Western countries, particularly the United States.

If that is true, the interests of the sides are not in mutual opposition. The problem is the feeling of distrust which asks if the other party will really carry it out faithfully even if both sides agree, and asks whether a trap has not been set within the agreement. It seems to me that the tendency is naturally stronger on the North Korean side. If we look at the attitude of both sides toward the U.S.-North Korea agreements since last year, it seems to me that the difference in interpretation of the agreements is linked to distrust. But that is a problem which can be solved only by further talks. In fact, it has been done that way between the United States and North Korea.

After much effort, inspections were carried out by the IAEA in March, so there is no urgent reason to brandish sanctions, or reopen the Team Spirit military excercises or deploy Patriot missiles to South Korea, just because North Korea rejected one part, saying that it violated the agreement (most of the inspections were carried out). The important thing is to continue the talks, so nations should not adopt measures that would impede this.

Even if Japan intensified pressure by adopting, in Prime Minister Hosokawa's words, "a firm posture" toward North Korea, it would have a greater danger of driving North Korea into leaving the NPT. If that happened, North Korea could, if it so desired, proceed without apology to arming itself with nuclear weapons, so the problem would probably become still more difficult. This is not something which the United States and the other concerned nations are hoping for. And even if economic sanctions were imposed, their effect would not be great. North Korea is economically isolated even in its current state, so it depends little on overseas goods. And it is not reasonable to expect that China would change to an adversarial relationship with North Korea, a friendly country on its border, by participating in the sanctions. Japan would probably be the one forced to bear the brunt of trouble from ineffective sanctions. Because it could very well mean bringing tension into Japanese society by such things as revising laws such as the Self-Defense Forces Law, supporting the U.S. military which would be blockading North Korea, or inviting sitations which could very well violate the human rights of North Korean residents of Japan.

I cannot believe that trying to change North Korea's attitude by exerting pressure on it is a wise policy. Is not even Japan adopting the attitude, in regard to economic friction with the United States, that it cannot agree to negotiate under pressure of sanctions? North Korea is very proud, so pressure could very well invite a reverse effect. There is also in large measure the aspect of North Korea's diplomatic rhetoric, but is not North Korea really showing a fierce reaction against moves regarding pressure? What the prime minister of Japan should do, is not to speak loudly of pressure at talks with foreign heads of state, but to speak calmly of continuation of talks, and of what each country can do toward that end.

In order to construct a new framework for peace in post-cold war Asia, one cannot shirk a solution to the Korean problem. The necessary conditions for relaxation of tensions are improvement of U.S.-North Korea relations and promotion of dialogue aimed at unification of North and South Korea. By this the cease-fire agreement would be changed into a peace agreement. In addition to North and South Korea and the United States, China would also naturally join this, and, based on a relaxation of tension, they would promote arms reduction on the Korean peninsula, denuclearization would be made certain, and this would be guaranteed by the United States, China, and Russia, and bilateral military alliances would be dissolved within this framework of peace and security. I think we should advance in the direction of also guaranteeing Japan's denuclearization and security within that kind of framework of peace for East Asia.

From that idea as well, what Japan should do first is reopen negotiations with North Korea on normalization of relations. In such a case, also partition off again such things as the level of representation at the negotiations and the method of negotiation, and if solving the problem of compensation requires time, it is also conceivable that Japan and North Korea first establish diplomatic relations, and push ahead with negotiations after that. What is important is that Japan should aim at creating trust by setting up a conduit for dialogue with North Korea. Close cooperation among Japan, the United States, South Korea, and China should not be a matter of causing China to participate in the pressure that the three countries of Japan, the United States, and South Korea are trying to advance, probably it should be cooperation in improvement of relations between the three countries and North Korea.

Tokyo, Seoul on Inspections

OW2507041794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0334 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Japan and South Korea want North Korea to accept unfettered international nuclear inspections of its suspected nuclear facilities and assure transparency of its nuclear activities, the chief government spokesman said Monday [25 July].

"We believe it would be a major prerequisite for North Korea to be accepted by the international society to come clean on its nuclear activities in the past, let alone in the present and future," Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi told a news conference.

Igarashi said North Korea should accept full international nuclear inspections of its suspected facilities to dispel allegations of its nuclear weapons development in the past.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama agreed on these two measures with South Korean President Kim Yong-sam during his weekend trip to Seoul.

Igarashi said the summit talks were a success and the two leaders saw eye to eye on other key issues such as bilateral ties and the situation of North Korea following the death of its leader Kim Il-song.

Further SDF-Russian Forces Exchanges Urged

OW2207131094 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 22 Jul 94 Morning Edition

[Text] Yohei Kono, deputy prime minister and concurrently foreign minister, plans to meet Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Bangkok where he will visit from 24 July to attend the Expanded ASEAN Foreign Ministerial Conference. Kono has made firm his plan to propose promoting further exchanges between uniformed officers in both the Self Defense Forces and the Russian military as part of "measures to help foster trust" which are aimed at helping enhance transparency in military strength in the Asian region. His plan envisages holding seminars and training sessions for uniformed officers from units stationed in the field. Upon meeting with his Russian counterpart, Kono plans to urge the governments of the two countries to promptly hold working-level meetings to coordinate matters.

Financial Aid to Rwanda 'Likely' To Increase

OW2507102794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0954 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Japan will likely boost its financial aid to Rwanda to help the African nation's hundreds of thousands of refugees return home, the government's chief spokesman said Monday [25 July].

"Given the aggravated situation in the country and the U.N. appeal on July 22 for further emergency aid for Rwandans, we are weighing the possibility of extending further aid," Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi said at a news conference.

Touching on Japan's past monetary aid to Rwandan refugees, Igarashi said, "We want to decide soon on what steps to take in view of the worsened situation in the country."

The Japanese Government decided to extend a total of 9 million dollars in emergency humanitarian aid to Rwanda in June.

It also decided earlier this month to give another 3 million dollars to the U.N. assistance mission in Rwanda toward purchasing necessary equipment and other activities.

U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali made an appeal last Friday for 274 million dollars in immediate relief aid for the Rwandan refugees who have no food, shelter, medicine or drinking water.

More than a million refugees, mostly members of the Hutu ethnic group, are crammed into squalid camps near Goma, Zaire, just across the border from Rwanda. They fled their homes fearing reprisals from the Rwandan Patriotic Front, led by rebels from the Tutsi ethnic group, which last week defeated government troops.

Kobe Steel To Set Up Joint Venture in PRC

OW2507091994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0646 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Kobe Steel Ltd. said Monday [25 July] it will set up a joint venture in China with China's Chengdu Engineering Machinery Group Corp. to manufacture and market construction machinery including hydraulic excavators.

Kobelco Chengdu Construction Machinery Co., as the joint company will be called, will be established on Oct. 1 in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, a company official said.

Initially capitalized at 1 million U.S. dollars, Kobe Steel will own a 45 percent stake, and Shinsho Corp. and Itochu Corp. will each hold 5 percent.

About 50 units per year are expected to be turned out in the beginning, the official said.

Kobe and Chengdu will consider boosting production facilities in June 1996. When expansion is completed, the company expects it should be able to turn out 1,000 units a year for sales of 10 billion yen.

Toyota Tsusho, SRV To Set Up Sales Venture

OW2507100794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0925 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Nagoya, July 25 KYODO—Toyota Tsusho Corp., the trading arm of the Toyota business group, announced Monday it has set up a joint venture in Vietnam to sell Toyota cars.

The joint venture, Toyota-TC Hanoi Car Service Corp., is capitalized at 2.42 million dollars and 67 percent owned by Toyota Tsusho and 33 percent by its Vietnamese affiliate Hanoi Car Service Co.

The company, established on June 14, will start operations in October, aiming for 6 million dollars in sales for the initial year, officials said.

They said exports of Toyota cars to Vietnam are surging as the country pushes its economic reform program known as "doi moi (renovation)."

Toyota Tsusho, which has been selling Toyota cars in Vietnam since 1987, already has car service facilities in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang and Haiphong.

Survey: Attacks on Korean Students Increasing

OW2507132894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1144 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—A group monitoring attacks against female students of schools for pro-Pyongyang Korean residents said Monday it has documented 155 such cases, many of them premeditated and increasingly violent.

The Committee To Investigate Human Rights Abuses Against Korean Students said its inquiries showed the spate of incidents, which began in April, are mainly directed against students wearing traditional Korean dress.

The incidents, many in broad daylight and at train stations or along routes used by the students to go to school, involve assailants cutting the students' hair, slashing their clothing, or striking them on the head or stomach, it said.

The committee said some students have been victimized two or three times by people who have obviously planned the attacks.

It said that since the 1960s, such attacks aimed at students at educational institutions affiliated with North

Korea have tended to increase in frequency at times when there are numerous media reports involving North Korea.

But it said the recent bout of attacks is the longest.

The committee said the victims were as young as lower primary school students and the attackers range in age from children to senior citizens.

The committee, which was formed in late June, consists of lawyers, scholars and authors working on behalf of former "comfort women" who were forced by the former Imperial Japanese Army to supply sexual services to soldiers during World War II. Most of the women were Korean.

Officials of the pro-Pyongyang General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun) earlier said at a press conference that discriminatory actions have noticeably increased since March in line with the international focus on North Korea's suspected nuclear arms development project.

There are some 700,000 Korean residents in Japan.

FY '95 Budget Growth To Be Held at 4-5 Percent

OW2507100994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0939 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—The government and ruling coalition parties have agreed to keep growth of general operating expenditures in the fiscal 1995 budget within a 4.0-5.0 percent range over the year before, government sources said Monday.

The sources said general operating expenditures will be set at close to 43 trillion yen.

Their annual growth rate for fiscal 1995 compares with a 3.8 percent ceiling set for the initial budget for fiscal 1994.

The sources said the government and ruling parties plan to put emphasis on public works projects to help accelerate recovery of the domestic economy, which showed signs of an upturn.

They said the cabinet and coalition parties have agreed to create a special 300 billion yen fund within the new fiscal program, allowing the government to target priority projects such as implementation of new farm policies under the Uruguay Round world trade agreement and development of the information and communications industries.

The special fund will also be used for construction of new super express railway lines and improvement of the social welfare system, they said.

The sources said that the government plans to hold the core general operating expenditure to a ceiling of 2.0 percent, while cutting running expenses by 10.0 percent. The cabinet and ruling parties are expected to formally approve Tuesday [26 July] the ceiling on budget requests by ministries and agencies, including outlays for defense and Official Development Assistance (ODA), they said.

The budget requests will be closed at the end of August for final adjustments during negotiations between the Finance Ministry and other ministries and agencies, the sources said.

The cabinet of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama will complete a draft budget toward the end of the year for approval in the Diet, the sources said.

Under the current budget compiled by former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, ceiling growth for defense spending was set at 1.95 percent, or the lowest since the ceiling system was introduced in fiscal 1961 under an austere budget policy.

The growth limit on ODA, however, was set at a relatively high 7.9 percent.

Special Budget Allocated

OW2507085494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0733 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's cabinet and the ruling coalition parties have agreed to create a special 300 billion yen allowance under the fiscal 1995 budget to direct funds to priority projects, government sources said Monday.

The government will seek overall to restrain growth of investment expenditures like that on public works to 2 percent, while cutting running expenses by 10 percent.

The new allowance, however, will be created to respond to priority issues such as farm policy under the Uruguay Round trade agreement, construction of communications networks and new super express train routes, and improvement of the social welfare system, the sources said.

Minimum necessary funds for approved priority projects will be guaranteed, while ministries can bid for up to twice the budgets they received in the past, the sources said.

The ruling coalition parties plan to formally approve Tuesday [26 July] the ceiling on requests for the fiscal 1995 budget which begins next April, including spending for defense and Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The cabinet will then endorse the guidelines on requests from agencies and ministries for the fiscal 1995 budget Friday [29 July].

The budget requests will be closed at the end of August for negotiations between the Finance Ministry and the other ministries and agencies, and the cabinet will compile the budget at the end of the year for approval at the Diet, or parliament.

The ceiling for the current fiscal year's general operating expenditures set last August was 41.45 trillion yen, up 3.8 percent from fiscal 1993. It was the lowest growth since the 3.0 percent rise of fiscal 1990.

Of the core general operating expenditures, the ceiling on investment spending was set at a relatively high growth of 5.0 percent under then Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's government.

On two "special category" spendings in the current fiscal year budget, the ceiling on defense spending was set at a 1.95 percent increase, the lowest since the ceiling system was launched in fiscal 1961 in the wake of introduction of the austere budget policy, and that on ODA spending was at a comparatively high 7.9 percent growth.

The new 300 billion yen budget allowance is equivalent to about 3 percent of the total 5 percent growth of ordinary investments approved last year, the sources said.

Defense Budget To Be Curbed

OW2307122794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 23 KYODO—The government, now working to establish the ceiling for the fiscal 1995 state budget, is likely to curb the growth of the defense budget to 1 percent or less, Finance Ministry sources said Saturday [23 Jul].

For fiscal 1994, the defense budget ceiling was set at 1.95 percent and the actual growth allocated in the original budget for the year was only 0.9 percent—the lowest increase in history as a reflection of the end of the Cold War.

The ceiling for official development assistance (ODA) is also to be negotiated at around 6 percent, below the 7.9 percent of fiscal 1994, they said.

The ministry wants to be tightfisted in the coming year, starting from April 1, since the budgets of fiscal 1992 and 1993 both registered a revenue shortfall in settlement.

The ministry is expected to hold final-round negotiations next week on the budget ceiling with government ministries and agencies.

The sources said the ministry, in line with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's policy and the worldwide arms reduction trend, has drawn another scenario for the following year's defense budget which will set the ceiling at zero growth to bring about an actual reduction in the original budget plan.

As for ODA, the Finance Ministry has justified the minimal increase in the budget by the fact that Japan's ODA has already reached the highest level of any single country, in dollar terms, and the recent appreciation of the yen will help maintain certain growth, the sources said.

The Defense Agency and the Foreign Ministry are, on the other hand, seeking a "reasonable" rate of growth in the defense budget, based on such factors as the heightened tension on the Korean peninsula due to North Korea's suspected nuclear program and the increasing necessity of Japan's participation in international cooperation.

More on Defense Budget

OW2507124594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1229 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party (SDP) and new party Sakigake, two of the three coalition parties, are poised to try to hold down the projected defense budget increase rate for fiscal 1995 to less than 0.9 percent, coalition sources said Monday [25 July].

The decision is set to trigger an intracoalition standoff as the Liberal Democratic Party, the odd man out in the decision, has already balked at earlier suggestions of a cutback, the sources said.

The fiscal 1994 defense outlay totaled 4,683.5 billion yen, up 0.9 percent over the initial fiscal 1993 defense budget and the smallest rate of increase in 34 years.

The SDP wants to hold down the rate of growth of 1995 defense spending to below the 1994 level to silence intraparty critics of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's scrapping of one of the party's crucial tenets that the Constitution outlaws the military, they said.

The party plans to formally adopt the policy reversal at a party convention set for Sept. 3, in the wake of Murayama's Diet statement that the Constitution "recognizes the Self-Defense Forces, as it is devoted solely to self-defense, maintaining only a minimum force required for such purposes."

Following the premier's statement, SDP Secretary General Wataru Kubo said the party "will strive to create a Japan without military hardware after recognizing the realities."

The sources said the SDP believes the government, now under the stewardship of the party's chairman, Murayama, can hold down the rate of growth to under 0.9 percent by whittling down spending for frontline weapons.

Sakigake executive Yukio Hatoyama told a news conference Monday that in order to back up the image of the disarmament policy avowed by the premier, it is convincing to voters to limit defense spending growth as much as possible.

"It is necessary to limit the increase to below 0.9 percent," he said.

The LDP, however, has said the government should not limit the growth of defense spending so drastically, saying such a budget limitation would make it impossible to finance outlays for higher personnel costs and enhance Japan's defense preparedness in terms of logistical support.

Meanwhile, Vice Defense Minister Shigeru Hatakeyama said Monday the agency needs to secure "a growth of at least 2.8 percent" to finance a projected increase of 130 billion yen for funding part of the U.S. budgetary cost of stationing U.S. forward-deployed armed forces in Japan, as well as higher SDF personnel cost.

Hatakeyama told a news conference the agency had already suffered a downward revision of its defense outlay in fiscal 1994 to accommodate the Diet-ordered cutback in Japan's five-year defense buildup plan that started in fiscal 1991.

Under a Japan-U.S. defense burden-sharing arrangement, Japan is obligated to finance 100 percent of the wages of Japanese employees serving at U.S. military bases in Japan, as well as heating and electricity fees incurred by the bases, starting in fiscal 1995.

Under a special agreement of the Japan-U.S. accord on the status of the U.S. bases, Japan earlier agreed to raise the extra outlays for these items by 25 percent over the corresponding outlay of fiscal 1994.

To pay for the increased outlays in this category and an increase in retirement allowances for SDF officers and troops, Japan no longer has any leeway for further defense budget cuts, agency officials said.

LDP Recovering, Shinseito Losing Public Support

OW2207225094 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 20 Jul 94 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] An ASAHI SHIMBUN opinion poll conducted on 17 and 18 July showed the approval rate for the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] was at 38 percent, up 4 percentage points from the last survey in May. On the other hand, that for the Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] dropped to 10 percent from 14 percent in the May survey. The approval rates for the two parties showed a clear contrast from before and after the turnover of power. As for the partners of the LDP, the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] earned support of 15 percent, which was unchanged from the last survey, and Sakigake [Harbinger] obtained support of 6 percent, which was down 1 percentage point.

In our survey in April 1993, or before the breakup of the LDP, the approval rate for the LDP stood at 47 percent; however, the figure fell drastically to 32 percent in September under the Hosokawa administration. The worst period for the LDP continued until last May, when the party's approval rate showed a slight increase under the Hata administration. The July survey then showed a clear upturn in the LDP's popularity.

Poll results classified by the respondents' age groups showed that the LDP's approval rate increased from 30 percent to 39 percent in the group of those in their forties, and the twenties and thirties groups also showed an approval rating of over 30 percent. Because the LDP's approval rate by the three age groups was below 30 percent in September 1993, the poll results can be regarded as a significant recovery in the LDP's popularity. According to occupational classification, the LDP was supported by 58 percent of primary industry workers and 47 percent of self-employed businesspersons.

On the other hand, Shinseito is losing support from female voters. Their support for Shinseito dropped from 14 percent to 9 percent. In particular, those in the 25-29 age group demonstrated support of only 15 percent, compared to 26 percent in May, and the support from the 30-34 age group also dropped from 24 percent to 14 percent.

Despite the upturn in the approval rate, the public still demonstrates a severe attitude toward the LDP. In a multiple choice question asking one's impression of the LDP from among nine answers provided, the largest group of 24 percent said that the LDP is "untrustworthy." This was followed by "ambiguous" (18 percent) and "better than others" (17 percent). Compared to the March 1993 survey, which was conducted when the public was reacting strongly to the Sagawa Kyubin scandal involving LDP members, however, the image of the LDP is improving. "Trustworthy" increased from 3 percent to 7 percent, and some other respondents said that the LDP is "trying hard" or is "high-spirited."

In response to the same question about the SDPJ, the top three largest groups indicated negative images of the party—31 percent said that the SDPJ is "shaky," 22 percent said "ambiguous," and 12 percent said "untrustworthy." Even among SDPJ supporters, 23 percent said that the party is "shaky."

LDP supporters' impression of the SDPJ was almost the same as that of the pollees in general; 30 percent said "shaky," and 22 percent said "ambiguous." However, SDPJ members' impression of the LDP was even worse—27 percent said that the LDP is "untrustworthy."

Three Former Premiers on Opposition Alliance

OW2507085194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0644 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Former Prime Ministers Toshiki Kaifu, Tsutomu Hata and Morihiro Hosokawa met Monday at a Tokyo hotel to discuss the prospect of forming a grand alliance of opposition parties, party officials said.

The meeting among Kaifu, Japan New Party leader Hosokawa and Shinseito leader Hata could lead to wider consultations among opposition party leaders in the near future, a senior JNP official said.

The three former premiers would form a "troika" leadership of the opposition alliance which may later be joined by Komeito chairman Koshiro Ishida and Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) chairman Takashi Yonezawa, the official said.

Kaifu quit the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) at the end of last month when he was nominated as a candidate for the prime ministerial election by the then ruling parties.

Social Democratic Party chairman Tomiichi Murayama, who was backed by the LDP and new party Sakigake, defeated Kaifu in the election and formed a coalition government.

Kaifu and five other LDP defectors created a new parliamentary group called "Koshi Kai," meaning a high-aspiration group, in the House of Representatives on July 15.

On Saturday, Shinseito's acting Secretary General Kozo Watanabe said the party is considering setting up a new grand coalition of opposition forces, excluding the Japanese Communist Party, before the next extraordinary Diet session is convened in September.

But prior policy compromises among opposition groups are seen as necessary since some parties, such as the DSP, have shown cautiousness toward the proposed alliance, opposition sources said.

Last August, an alliance of eight groups led by Hosokawa ousted the LDP from its 38-year hold on power.

After Hosokawa resigned in April over alleged money scandals, Hata succeeded him as prime minister.

But new party Sakigake and the SDP withdrew from Hata's coalition, turning the Hata cabinet into a minority government.

Hata's cabinet resigned in mid-June before the certain endorsement in the Diet of a no-confidence motion submitted by the LDP.

Kaifu's tenets called for expediting deregulation of Japan's tightly regulated economy to raise the nation's living standards while pushing for active contributions to the international community under the banner of "international cooperation," the sources said.

The new party would also seek to limit its international contributions to those in "nonmilitary fields," a veiled reference to limiting Japan's future role in U.N. peacekeeping missions to noncombat activities.

Hata and Hosokawa agreed on the outline of the proposed tenets, they said.

The three leaders will request Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida and Democratic Socialist Party Chairman Takashi Yonezawa to join further rounds of preparatory talks leading up to the inauguration of the new party, they said.

The trilateral meeting is designed to soften any impression that Shinseito Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa and Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa are pushing from behind the scenes in the formation of the grand alliance, analysts said.

Last august, an anti-LDP alliance of eight groups led by Hosokawa stripped the LDP of its 38-year lock on power. The Hosokawa administration, however, collapsed in April over alleged improprieties in Hosokawa's financial dealings.

Hata succeeded Hosokawa in a new coalition, but his administration was rendered a minority government due to the withdrawal of the SDP, enraged by the formation of a new parliamentary group which excluded the party and relegated it to the sidelines.

Agree To Forming New Party

OW2507114694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1130 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Three former prime ministers agreed Monday to speed up the process of unifying nine non-communist political parties into a large new party to grab power from the government of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, informed sources said.

The agreement was struck in a one-and-a-half-hour meeting of Toshiki Kaifu, Tsutomu Hata and Morihiro Hosokawa at a Tokyo hotel, the sources close to the ex-premiers said.

The accord may lead to the establishment of the new party prior to the convening in September of an extraordinary Diet session, the officials said. Hata leads Shinseito, while Hosokawa heads the Japan New Party he founded.

The trilateral meeting was called by Kaifu, who rocked the political community on June 29 by challenging Murayama in a parliamentary vote for picking the replacement of then-Prime Minister Hata.

Kaifu had drawn strength from Hata's former ruling coalition, while Murayama drew backing from the alliance of his Social Democratic Party (SDP), the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and new party Sakigake.

Though defeated in the vote, Kaifu departed the LDP and founded a Diet group called Koshikai (literally translated as the High Ideal Party) on July 15, along with a few other LDP dissidents.

In the day's meeting, Kaifu asked the two other leaders to endorse his blueprint for the new party's tenets to prevent a future policy squabble from undercutting the solidarity of the new party, the sources said.

Kaifu was quoted as telling Hata and Hosokawa, "It is of primary importance for us to accomplish the convergence of our tenets."

JNP, DSP To Step Up Opposition Alliance Moves

OW2507143894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1408 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—The leaders of two small opposition parties, the Japan New Party (JNP) and Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), inked an accord Monday [25 July] to intensify coordination in policy formation and election campaigns while expediting moves to amalgamate all noncommunist opposition parties into a new large party.

The accord, entitled "Toward The Goal of Establishing a New Reformist Government," was sealed by JNP leader Morihiro Hosokawa and DSP Chairman Takashi Yonezawa following their face-to-face meeting, party officials said.

The deal was struck on the same day that Hosokawa, Shinseito leader Tsutomu Hata and Toshiki Kaifu, leader of the Koshikai (High Ideal Party) parliamentary group, agreed to speedily unify all nine noncommunist opposition parties into a large party to oust the current coalition from power.

The current ruling coalition is led by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, whose Social Democratic Party [Social Democratic Party of Japan] joined an unlikely alliance with its archrival Liberal Democratic Party to fell the Hata administration in June.

The JNP-DSP agreement is expected to add fuel to growing moves to converge noncommunist opposition parties into a single large party, analysts said.

In a news conference that followed the signing, DSP Secretary General Kensei Nakano described the JNP as a "comrade of comrades," underscoring the especially strong ties between the two parties.

The formation of the JNP-DSP alliance is designed to secure an upper hand over other opposition parties in their growing move toward a unified party capable of vying with the ruling coalition, analysts said.

Nakano and JNP Executive Masuo Matsuoka told reporters the pair also want to entice some "reform-minded" LDP and SDP dissidents into their camp.

The JNP-DSP deal implies the pair decided to expedite the convergence moves, rather than setting up a political party by combining the legislators of the two parties before integrating them into an even larger fold, analysts said.

Junior Opposition Members Discuss New-New Party

OW2107120994 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 19 Jul 94 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] The "Union of Young People for the Creation of Responsible Politics" [sekininaru seijiwo tsukuru wakate rengo], made up of eight opposition parties' members of less than three terms in the Diet, held a rally on 18 July, and discussed proposals on forming a new-new party. The Diet members of the Japan Communist Party were excluded from the meeting.

Some in the meeting voiced caution about the proposals on the new-new party, but a majority of them spoke in active support of it. Consequently, the meeting adopted a resolution declaring "We will push for prompt regaining of government power by forming the new-new party."

The meeting was attended by 110 Diet members and 10 proxies. Views in active support of the new-new party came mostly from the people of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] and Komeito, some of whom said: "They [ruling parties] will attack us if they find some loopholes. We younger people should take the lead in forming the new-new party." And some said, "We should be willing enough to activate a preparatory committee for the new-new party right now."

Debate on SDF, Policy Among Dietmen Continues

Murayama on SDF

OW2207122194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1158 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 22 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Friday [22 Jul] supported the present level of equipment and operation of Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) as not posing any problems regarding the constitution.

Murayama said at a plenary session of the House of Councillors that he backs the SDF's plan to introduce airborne warning and control system (AWACS) planes, participation in the Rimpac military drill and defense of the nation's sea-lanes as long as they are confined to defensive purposes.

The premier said the SDF's participation in Rimpac, a joint military drill with the United States, South Korea, Australia and Canada, is only for training and has nothing to do with collective security.

Murayama also said it is necessary for the SDF to protect the nation's sea-lanes, vital to sustaining Japan's energy supply, most of which is imported.

Murayama's remarks mark a step away from the long-standing policy of his Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ], which has said Japan's military forces violate the war-renouncing constitution.

The constitution renounces the threat or use of force to settle international disputes and says Japan will never maintain armed forces.

The five-day extraordinary Diet session, in which Murayama delivered his key note speech as the first socialist premier since 1947, ended Friday afternoon.

Murayama also said his administration will follow the previous governments' view that official visits by cabinet ministers to Yasukuni shrine do not violate the constitution.

Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone caused an international stir in 1985 by visiting the shrine in his official capacity as premier.

Asian countries have criticized visits to the shrine by cabinet ministers because Japanese convicted of war crimes are enshrined there along with other war dead.

Murayama also said his government will continue supporting the present budget system to shoulder part of the costs of U.S. military forces stationed in Japan.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono indicated a reconsideration of the long-time Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) opposition to a bill that would compensate relatives of people killed in the 1945 U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki or who died afterward as a result of the bombing.

"Although the LDP has long balked at the bill, it is now necessary for the ruling coalition to consider the bill cautiously," Kono said.

Drafts of the bill sketched by the former coalition parties, including the SDPJ, which has long favored such compensation, call for the government to pay an allowance of up to 500,000 yen per victim to the bereaved families.

The LDP lost its 38-year rule on power through its defeat in the 1993 general election, ousted by an anti-LDP coalition alliance made up of the SDPJ and six other parties.

The SDPJ later quit the alliance over a power struggle within the coalition.

The present coalition government of Murayama was formed last month by the LDP, the SDPJ and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger].

Kono also rejected opposition charges that the coalition government is plagued with a gulf between the conservative-dominated LDP and the SDPJ concerning differing positions on the war- renouncing constitution.

"Although the LDP adopted a goal of replacing the constitution with a self-drafted constitution as a tenet at the time of its founding (in 1955), the LDP panel on the constitution last year called for not making the tenet a prerequisite," Kono, LDP president, told the upper house session.

Kono was referring to the LDP's position that Japan should draft its own constitution to replace the current one which was written and enacted by U.S. occupation administrators in 1946.

SDF Members Urged To Back SDF

OW2207144094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1424 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Osaka, July 22 KYODO—Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] Secretary General Wataru Kubo sought party members' understanding Friday [22 Jul] on the coalition government's policy of regarding the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) as constitutional.

In a drastic change from the party's long-held view, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who also heads the SDPJ, told a Diet session that his coalition government regards the SDF as constitutional as long as its role is limited to defense.

Kubo, who arrived in Osaka after a five-day extraordinary Diet session ended in Tokyo earlier in the day, said, "it is against people's interest for the SDPJ to make unfruitful controversy within the party and thus shake the foundation of the government."

During the almost four decades the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was in power, the SDPJ, as the then largest opposition party, insisted Japan's military forces violate the war-denouncing constitution.

The constitution renounces the threat or use of force to settle international disputes and states Japan will never maintain armed forces.

But after the SDPJ, LDP and the small New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] formed a coalition government last month, the premier has had to make compromises on key issues such as the SDF to maintain power in what is considered a fragile coalition of unlikely political partners.

"It is the SDPJ's mission to end the controversy over (what is) constitutional and unconstitutional and proceed with disarmament toward the goal of an unarmed Japan," Kubo said in a lecture.

On the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, Kubo said, "the time has arrived when (we) can gradually make dim a color of military alliance."

As for the SDPJ's relations with the LDP, Kubo denied that the coalition government is simply a revival of LDP politics.

"It is an epoch-making event that the LDP, which advocates drafting (the nation's) own constitution, agreed on a standpoint of respecting the constitution," Kubo said.

The secretary general was referring to the LDP's agreement to respect the current constitution and proceed with disarmament when it formed the coalition with the SDPJ.

In the past, the LDP's position had been that Japan should draft its own constitution to replace the current one which was written and enacted by U.S. occupation administrators in 1946.

JCP on SDPJ Policy Change

OW2307043394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0418 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Atami, Japan, July 23 KYODO—A top official of the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) Saturday [23 July] blasted Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama for his recent Diet remarks on security issues that amounted to an about-face on the security policy of his once anti-military Social Democratic Party (SDP) [Social Democratic Party of Japan].

JCP Chief Secretary Kazuo Shii, in a closing speech at the party's five-day congress, said Murayama's remarks will give a forward thrust to Japan's military buildup.

His criticism was directed at the SDP premier's declaration at parliamentary sessions that he sees Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) and its key military machines like AWACS (airborne warning and control system) as constitutional.

The SDP "has now thrown away its banner of pro-Constitution power, and has degenerated to the extent that it unconditionally accepts (the Liberal Democratic Party's policy)," he said. The SDP constitutes a ruling coalition along with the LDP and a tiny LDP splinter New Party Sakigake.

In the afternoon session of the party congress, the delegations are expected to approve the party's supreme leader Kenji Miyamoto's reappointment as Chairman of the Central Committee despite his ill health. Miyamoto has been absent from the meeting because he has been hospitalized with a heart problem since late June.

Conflict Between New Ministers, Bureaucrats

OW2207132294 Tokyo AERA in Japanese 18 Jul 94 pp 14-17

[Article by editorial staff members Shunji Taoka, Toshiaki Miura, and Naoya Suzuki: "The New Regime and the Bureaucrats"]

Murayama Vs. Self-Defense Forces

Self-Defense Forces [SDF] personnel have a tendency to distinguish between enemies and allies even within Japan. The Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], which has challenged the existence of the SDF and developed the anti-SDF movement at every opportunity, has been the leading "opposition power" for them over the last 40 years.

It is not only on policy grounds. They saw the shadow of the SDPJ behind the regional governments which refused to accept residency registration by the SDF personnel or prevented SDF personnel from participating in national athletic meets and also behind professional discrimination, such as insensitive comments by teachers to the children of the SDF personnel. So they have expressed grudges against the Socialists on occasion.

For outsiders, at times they seem to be excessively conscious of being persecuted, and it is natural enough that opposition parties criticize government entities. Still, not many staff members in other ministries and agencies have likely had the experiences of having the legitimacy of their organization denied and their families discriminated against.

Not a few senior officers have shown overt antagonism at the fact that the chairman of that same SDPJ has become prime minister and has suddenly emerged as the supreme commander of the SDF.

A colonel in the Ground Forces Staff displays his unhappiness, saying "of course we will adhere to the principle of civilian control and will obey the orders of the prime minister, whoever he may be. But I heard that Mr. Murayama said at a news conference right after he assumed office that he was not the supreme commander. I cannot forgive the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] which nominated such a disgraceful person as the prime minister. I feel I have been betrayed." Former Sergeant Who Has Become Instant "General of the Army" [subhead]

The first question Prime Minister Murayama was asked at the news conference on 1 July was about the relationship of the Constitution and the SDF. When he was asked his opinion as supreme commander, he carelessly displayed his lack of preparation by saying "I am not the supreme commander."

Article 7 of the SDF Law states that "as the representative of the cabinet, the prime minister holds supreme command authority over the SDF."

Before the war, the "supreme command authority" rested with the emperor, but today it belongs to Mr. Murayama.

Also, in the past, the emperor handed the colors over to regiments and so on, but today, new troop colors and fleet colors for newly commissioned SDF vessels are delivered by the prime minister. (Article 4 of the same law)

Also the orders for "defensive deployment" in case of armed attack against Japan or if it faces such a possibility (Article 76 of the same law) or for "security deployment" in case of civil disturbances and so on (Article 78 of the same law) are, of course, given by the prime minister. The tactical orders are given to commanders of the combat forces such as the commanding general of the ground forces, the commander of the self defense fleet, and the commander of the air defense in the name of the prime minister. Officially, the chairman of the Joint Staff Council and chiefs of staff of the three defense forces are merely an advisory staff for the prime minister and the Defense Agency director general.

The symbol of the prime minister's leadership authority over the SDF is the "Prime Minister's Colors" which are kept in a safe at the Self Defense Agency. [This flag has] five gold cherries embroidered on deep red silk fabric. [The flags for] generals of the Ground and the Air Forces and Admiral of the Maritime Self-Defense Force have three cherries, the flag for the chairman of the Joint Staff Council and those for the chiefs of staff of the three defense forces have four cherries, and the flag for the Defense Agency director general has five silver cherries. In other countries' military organizations, four stars indicate a general or admiral, five stars denote the general of the Army or Fleet Admiral. Prime Minister Murayama who was a sergeant in the previous Army is now "General of the Army." At the naval review ceremony on 16 October, his flag will be hoisted on the mast of the destroyer "Shirane" (5200 tons), indicating that the "Prime Minister is on board," and at the review ceremony on 30 October, a flag bearer who is specially selected will present arms to him.

Naval Review Ceremony and [Ground Self-Defense Force] Review Ceremony Will Be the Test

But there may be some uncomfortable situations for SDPJ Chairman Murayama. While there are many in the party and among its supporters who harbor anti-SDF feelings, the SDF personnel will be watching with maliciousness what kind of address the top leader of the SDPJ will deliver.

Teikyo University Professor Toshiyuki Shikata, a former general who was the one-time GSDF commanding general of the Northern Headquarters, says that "Prime Minister Murayama should decide whether the SDF is constitutional, advocate changing the Constitution, or order the disbanding of the SDF by that time, and clarify his decision in front of the SDF personnel. If he stands on the reviewing stand without doing so, the perplexity of the SDF personnel will turn into anger. The argument that it is unconstitutional but legal is not understandable by the troops and the Japanese people. How could he be the leader of an unconstitutional organization?"

For the SDF, its behavior toward the top leader of the SDPJ as its commander will be the proof of whether or not it is the politically neutral, self-defense force of a democratic country. For the SDPJ and its chairman, the naval review ceremony and the ground review ceremony on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the SDF will be even more difficult proof.

Balancing With "Hawkish" Director General

The new regime is trying to maintain a better balance by having the self-proclaimed "former hawk," Tokuichiro Tamazawa, LDP member, as the director general of the Defense Agency. And Prime Minister Murayama is also trying, at home and abroad, to demonstrate a realistic posture as much as possible. When the administrative vice minister of the Defense Agency, Shigeru Hatakeyama, and others visited the prime minister on 4 July, though he was in the midst of preparations getting ready for the summit and was extremely busy, he received the defense policy briefing in good humor and put at ease minds of the defense officials. He also expressed to President Clinton on the phone his intention to firmly maintain the U.S.-Japan security structure.

A high ranking Defense Agency official is relatively optimistic, saying that "this is not the first time the SDPJ has become one of the government parties. As long as it supports the coalition government and holds governing responsibility, it will shed old skins on every subject."

But, ideology aside, the actual environment surrounding the Defense Agency and the SDF is severe. The financial situation is tight, and in light of the decreasing younger population in the future, reorganization plans which include abolishing and reduction of units are being made. The threat from the former Soviet Union forces is also nearly gone, and it is becoming harder to explain the forces' raison d'etre. Especially since the Murayama government has come into being in the midst of such circumstances, SDF personnel might be dissatisfied and blame the SDPJ if reductions are made. A senior Defense Agency official says also that "in fact, the defense budget is mostly determined by external conditions, such as the financial situation, the historical setting, and so on. The extent to which a prime minister can influence such things is little more than zero."

Kono Vs. the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA]

The MOFA, which is headed by LDP President Yohei Kono, seems to be depressed. Especially since it is the ministry which has a weak domestic base, it should have been euphoric at receiving a big-wig politician. But some even say that "he was the politician we did not want second from last." The most disliked was New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] representative, Masayoshi Takemura. They view him to be a politician who tries to gain popularity by openly displaying his confrontational attitudes toward the bureaucracy. Kono may be "softer" than Takemura. He is nevertheless a politician who has openly shown his dovish posture, and is not compatible with the MOFA which, under both the Hosokawa and Hata governments, took a positive stance for enhancing Japan's international position along the lines of a "normal country" as advocated by Ichiro Ozawa, representative of the Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party]. It can even be said that their's has been "a sort of hostile relationship," (according to a Kono associate).

Kono declared at a news conference held at the prime minister's official residence on 30 June, the day the Murayama government was inaugurated:

"In foreign policy, I expect that political decisions are often sought. We must make political decision on each point."

In the evening of the same day, Kono's news conference, which had been scheduled at the MOFA Press Club for 11 P.M., was delayed by over 30 minutes. At the minister's office on the fourth floor, persuasion by the senior officials, such as Administrative Vice Minister Kunio Saito and others, went on until the 11th hour.

"Minister, continuity is necessary for foreign policy."

"Please do not say that you question the government view that 'the use of nuclear weapons does not necessarily violate positive international law,' which was originally included in an appeal to the International Court of Justice. [If you do,] coordination with previous foreign policy will be lost."

Cautious About Becoming Permanent Member of the Security Council

Kono, after finishing the briefing, attended the news conference.

Press Corps: "What do you think about the original petition by the last administration which maintained 'the use of nuclear weapon cannot be determined to be unlawful'?"

Foreign Minister: "Nuclear deterrence is effective today, too. Nuclear weapons must be discontinued. I mean, the sooner the better."

Though he had advocated elimination of nuclear weapons, he did not answer the question directly, out of consideration for the bureaucrats.

But as for the issue of a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, he did not waver from his conviction.

He questioned the previous coalition government's positive posture, asking "how much do the Japanese people understand (the pros and cons of) Japan gaining a permanent seat on the Security Council?"

A MOFA official complained. "After so long a time, we cannot change our stance of trying to obtain a permanent seat in the Security Council. [If we do], it will reflect an image of retreat to the outside world."

There is a story about Kono going around in the MOFA.

Last March, during Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet, then Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono was cautious about dispatching the PKO to Mozambique. But after meandering about, the dispatch was decided on. Kono, when he saw the material prepared for the news conference, hit the ceiling. He was reacting to the portion where the number of personnel to be sent was set at about 50.

"This is not for the bureaucrats to decide. The politicians must decide."

MOFA was ordered to redo the document, with the column for numerical figures not filled in.

Kono's way of thinking is that "I will not permit a bureaucrat- led policy decision which would not provide enough information."

"Could This Be a Step To Premiership?"

Kono has served as chairman of the LDP Research Commission on Foreign Affairs and chief cabinet secretary, and is familiar with foreign affairs issues. How to convince such a Kono. The MOFA bureaucrats are racking their brains.

On the other hand, for Kono, his future as a politician hangs on what results he can produce as the foreign minister. Right after the inauguration of Prime Minister Murayama, Kono took the post of foreign minister, even by restraining Takemura and the former LDP Policy Research Council chairman, Ryutaro Hashimoto, who also wanted the foreign minister portfolio.

The political world wonders if "this might be a step intended toward a future prime ministership."

But in the light of his relationship with the MOFA up until now, Kono does not necessarily have a strong support base in the ministry. Also, many countries, which are apprehensive about the emergence of the SDPJ prime minister, will strongly demand the guarantee for the continuity of foreign policy.

Under such circumstances, to what extent can he make "political decisions" and formulate his own "Kono foreign policy"? If he mishandles things, he could end up with an empty promise.

Takemura Vs. the Ministry Of Finance

Takemura, the leader of Sakigake, rode into the Ministry Of Finance [MOF], with which he has the worst kind of relationship, as its minister.

At the news conference right after he assumed the position, concerning the focal point of tax system reform, he developed his pet argument that "it is important to take concrete measures for administrative reform, not to choose a tax increase at once. Reflecting on the national welfare tax [which Hosokawa tried to start], I want to work on reform of the entire tax structure." Thus he checked the MOF bureaucrats whose political moves were notable under the previous coalition government.

The strong wish of the MOF is to manage bills on an income tax cut and a consumption tax rate raise simultaneously within this year. The national welfare tax commotion had also occurred when the MOF approached some of the government parties [in the previous coalition] and tried to solve the tax hike and eliminate problems at the same time. Takemura, who was the chief cabinet secretary, was not informed until the last minute and kept in the dark. The MOF administrative vice minister, Jiro Saito, was said to have allied with Ichiro Ozawa, the Shinseito representative. As a result, Takemura holds an indelible mistrust of the MOF.

Strategy of Controlling Bureaucrats Through a Sense of Obligation and Submission

At the 1 July social gathering of the cabinet members following the cabinet meeting, the criticism by LDP cabinet members followed one after another about the fact that Vice Minister Saito and MITI Administrative Vice Minister Kumano had been retained in their posts. Those who calmed things down were Takemura and MITI Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

Takemura reproached the MOF bureaucrats at the news conference following the cabinet meeting by commenting that "in short, the bureaucrats had exceeded proper limits. I want them to self-reflect." The confrontation of retribution for past deeds seems to be going in the finance minister's favor.

Representative Naoto Kan of Sakigake is in bullish mood saying that "when the governing parties are closely united and the prime minister's resolve is firm, the government can make a go of things. If the bureaucrats say that their opinion on a policy differs and insist that they cannot follow a decision, then, there is no choice but that we ask them to resign."

Representative Shokei Arai (LDP), former MOF bureaucrat, thinks that the reason the finance minister is taking a severe stand is as follows:

"If the problem is logically pursued, it is clear that the current government will be driven to decide on a consumption tax hike. I wonder if he is trying to threaten the bureaucrats and to create an atmosphere in which they cannot say what they must say"

But Hiroshi Kato, chairman of the government's Research Council on the Taxation System, has a slightly different view.

"Mr. Takemura's behavior at the cabinet member's social gathering must have been one of tactics. When you tell a man that 'I helped you,' he will listen to you. Those had to be comments made for consumption by Vice Minister Saito and the Budget Bureau. Mr. Takemura also knows how important the tax hike is."

People who know Takemura's political methods also comment that "he is a person who would cast out a net and capture his opponents, rather than going into an all-out war relying on force."

Administrative Vice Minister Assumes Docile Posture for the Time Being

Certainly, the finance minister who is not a tax expert would not want simply to have a total confrontation. Without the cooperation of the MOF which holds all the information concerning taxes, even to grope for compromise points in reform of the taxation system will become difficult.

Chastised Vice Minister Saito replied at the news conference that "the final responsibility (of policy decisions) rests with the minister, so it is proper to follow the minister's intentions." He is assuming a docile posture for now.

But it does not mean that [the MOF bureaucracy] is defeated. The Japanese balance of general accounts for fiscal year 1992 is in deficit for the second consecutive year, and the amount of income shortfall exceeds 500 billion yen. Using the deterioration of the fiscal situation, they continue their attack of persuading Finance Minister Takemura.

As for Minister Takemura, he sometimes seems to be paying heed to the MOF now, as he expressed the view that "the fiscal situation is even more serious."

A former MOF official views things coolly saying that "the bureaucrats are in a wait-and-see mode and, to put in maliciously, they are just paying lip service without obeying. It is hard to get visible reform results in a short period. The fiscal situation is increasingly becoming tight. They must be reading the situation that sooner or later, Takemure will have to advance taxation system reform along the line that the MOF has been advocating."

Since both the finance minister and the MOF have their own reasons for not being able to wage a total war, I think they will continue to watch each other for some time to come.

* Sakigake Official Discusses Political Reform

942B0129A Tokyo GENDAI in Japanese Jul 94 pp 56-67

[Article by Shusei Tanaka, Sakigake deputy chief]

[Text]

World Headed Toward Disorder

"There is no doubt that an era has come to an end. However, the new era that will replace it has yet to begin."

These words were uttered, every time the opportunity arose, in November 1992 by Prime Minister Miyazawa at the inception of his administration. I recall that he gave particular emphasis to them in his first general policy speech.

At that time, the afterglow of victory in the Gulf war still lingered, and led people to believe that the victory was a step toward the establishment of a new world order. For that very reason, President Bush's words, "a new world order," resounded rather convincingly in the ears of his listeners.

From the start, I had doubts about a world order of the sort that existed during the Gulf war, for the following reasons: 1) It is not sufficiently value-oriented, that is, its goals are unclear. 2) It depends heavily on military aspects. 3) It relies too heavily on the United States. Prime Minister Miyazawa shared my doubts, and this realization on his part led to his proposal for a "new world peace order."

In fact, subsequent shifts in international policy proved that Prime Minister Miyazawa had been thinking along the right lines. Not only do we not have a "new world order," but also, President Bush, who had boasted a high support rate (80 percent), has retreated from the scene.

The post-Cold War world remains in a sort of limbo. No definitive steps have been taken toward a new world order. Furthermore, conflicts that had been contained by the Cold War have erupted. In that sense, the world is becoming more disorderly and more unstable.

However, the change of government that took place in Japan last year was a historic event that unequivocally heralded the end of an era, one that is obviously connected with trends in world politics. Since the Cold War ended, the role of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] role had ended. The result was a change of government.

Since the change of government last year was an earth-shaking event, many people viewed it as the beginning of a new era, just as they had the collapse of the Berlin Wall. One cannot blame them for thinking that once the LDP, which had played out its role in history, and which had become utterly corrupt, would be replaced by a new, rose-colored politics. Their expectations were the same as the ones harbored by those who thought that the world would be at peace once the age of touch-and-go tension and confrontation between the United States and the USSR had ended.

However, it is now 10 months since the government changed hands. Miyazawa's words that "there is no doubt that an era has come to an end; however, the new era that will replace it has yet to begin," still apply, even to Japanese politics. The LDP era is unquestionably over. The 1955 system has collapsed. But no new national goals have been forged to replace those of the Cold War era, nor has a new, responsible party been formed that would advance them. An era has ended and an old system has collapsed, but no new era has begun, nor has a new system been established.

Was an LDP Government a Possibility?

From its inception, the Hosokawa coalition government was referred to as an interim government. Last year's general election saw the curtain fall on an era. In the next general election, the curtain will open onto a new era. Therefore, the Hosokawa government was an interlude. Between performances, the props from the previous drama are removed, and those for the next one are put into place. In my opinion, that was the Hosokawa government's assignment.

During the Cold War, Japan had two clear-cut national goals. One was to fulfill its duties as a member of the free world and to contribute as much as possible to the interests of the free world.

The other was to overhaul its lagging economy and strive to surpass other nations in economic development. By doing that, Japan would be contributing to world economic growth and improving the living standard of its people.

When these two goals lost their validity, which they both did at about the same time, the political, administrative, and economic systems and organizations were no longer appropriate. In particular, the system of cooperation which bound politics, administration, and economics together, and which had played a prominent role in advancing the second goal, metamorphosed into a collusive triangle (politicians, bureaucrats, and businessmen). As evidenced by the general contracting scandal, the three components of the triangle formed a perverted, corrupt system.

It was simply a matter of time. Sooner or later, one-party control by the LDP would have come to an end, and Japan would have had a change of government. I believe that the sudden emergence of a new government last summer is due to Morihiro Hosokawa's personal charisma.

Last year, there were two paths to take in selecting a new government. One was a coalition government in which the LDP would participate. The other was a government that would exclude the LDP. The trends of the times caused the latter path to be chosen, but I am not convinced of the absolute correctness of that choice.

Even if the LDP had established a minority government at that time, or if a coalition government including the LDP had come into being, the LDP would have been forced to transform itself. Just as the Seiyukai [Constitutional Party of Political Friends] was reborn into the Jiyuto [Liberal Party] after the war, the LDP must change, perhaps so much so as to be unrecognizable, if it intends to survive. Unless it obtains the agreement of other parties, it will be unable to get budgets, legislation, or treaties approved, and the Diet will come to a standstill. For instance, what would happen if the LDP were faced with a demand such as, "We won't approve the budget unless you get rid of 10 special-status corporations?" What would happen if it were told, "We won't vote for this legislation unless you take decisive action on a thousand regulations per year?" However, this sort of bargaining might revolutionize Japan's political structure and system if applied to all parties alike.

However, a dispassionate look at the situation suggests that even that means was not an option available to the LDP, once it had become a target of criticism. The party's reputation had deteriorated too much.

Governments With a Special Mission Versus Normal Governments

A non-LDP government with the sole purpose of "wresting the government from the LDP, and making sure it never returned to power" was not fated to last long. Its goal was, for the most part, achieved when the government was formed, and the coalition then lost its cohesion. All that was left for it to do was to hope that the voters would continue to view the LDP with disfavor.

After a great deal of agonizing, we (Sakigake [Harbinger] and the Japan New Party) built a solid framework for a "political reform government," its mission being political reform, a concept far superior to that of a "non-LDP government." If we hadn't created that framework, the Hosokawa government could not have accomplished anything major. Nor would there have been much chance of its lasting as long as it did, more than six months, as demonstrated more by the shift in government after the political reform bill passed than by anything else.

I have always said that there are two types of governments—normal governments and governments with a mission. Any government may, of course, possess both of these attributes. But it is possible to use these categories, given the difference in degree.

A normal government is one that views its main purpose as running the daily affairs of a nation; e.g., preparing budgets, setting economic policy, handling diplomatic matters, and responding appropriately to emergency situations. This description would apply to the LDP governments of the past.

Since a normal government needs principles upon which to base its running of the nation, it has specific ideas, ideologies, philosophies, and goals. The goals of the LDP governments were the two I mentioned previously.

A coalition government made up of political parties with widely divergent ideas and ideologies usually cannot accomplish anything unless it has a special mission.

Nevertheless, there are cases in which a coalition government can function, though minimally, as a normal government. That happens when one key party proposes the ideologies and goals of the government, and when that key party boasts an overwhelming majority (for instance, two-thirds) in comparison with the other member parties.

Therefore, I was aware that the Hosokawa and Hata governments, both consisting of a coalition of small parties, had no chance of operating as a normal government. The sharing of an urgent special mission, one that transcends diverse ideas and ideologies, is indispensable in sustaining a government. Then, the more pressing that special mission is, the more the government's ability to function as a normal government is enhanced. The Hosokawa government succeeded in bringing the Uruguay Round to a conclusion for the very reason that its commitment to its special mission, political reform, made it cohesive. Its commitment to getting the political reform bill passed, and the drive behind it even carried over to the Uruguay Round.

Three Obstacles That Block Political Reorganization

Since Hosokawa's retreat, we, the members of Sakigake, have been aspiring to improve the political situation. We have been hoping for major progress toward full-scale political reorganization, and have continued to strive for that goal.

Full-scale political reorganization would be one based on ideas and ideologies, such as the future of our nation, the quality of life in Japan, and our national goals. We have hoped to prepare a new system to replace the old and, to that end, to create a new political trend.

However, three obstacles have significantly impeded full-scale political reorganization. They are: 1) the LDP versus non-LDP conflict; 2) the opposition between reformists and conservatives; and 3) tensions of the Keiseikai type (tension between Ozawa and his detractors, which tends to be overemotional). These obstacles have nothing to do with full-scale political reorganization, but they actually control the flow of events behind the political scene. It was too early for changes on the political front to overcome the hostility between some people, which was so strong that they couldn't even bear to face each other.

However, compared with last year, when the government changed hands, these obstacles have gradually diminished to some extent. It may not seem that resentment against Ozawa has lessened, but it has. Though the power struggle within the LDP has abated, disputes over ideas, ideologies, and policies have heightened, and that is why the situation appears that way. This is a welcome change, and one that should not be viewed negatively.

Actually, rumor has it that Ozawa and Ichikawa were plotting a political reorganization that involved the Watanabe faction of the LDP. The members of Sakigake also welcomed this movement with open arms, for the sake of political reorganization.

The media's attitude, as well, is dramatically different from what it was last year. They have stopped focusing on the "LDP vs. non-LDP" and the "reformists vs. conservatives" themes. Rather, they seem to be hoping for full-scale political reorganization.

The political community has not been able to produce the results that we were hoping for. However, even though we were not able to move a step forward toward full-scale political reorganization, I believe that the fact that we are at least facing in the right direction now is a real accomplishment.

When the Hata government came into office, we of Sakigake decided to cooperate with it, but from outside the cabinet. Since we had participated in the drafting of the FY1994 budget and related legislation, we were obligated to get them passed as quickly as possible. Though we were not bound by the constraints of the new coalition, we decided to cooperate fully on all matters inherited from the Hosokawa government.

However, we can no longer take part in the skirmishes that erupted time after time during the Hosokawa government. As long as political reorganization is involved, they will erupt again. If we participated in the coalition with this knowledge, we would be just as guilty as the others. The "Kaishin" furor that occurred after the prime minister was designated, apart from the timing, was just what we thought would happen.

Bureaucrat-Dominated Politics a Failure

The tendency toward bureaucrat-dominated politics is gaining momentum in Japan.

What I refer to as bureaucrat-dominated politics is fundamentally different in nature from the sort of politics the bureaucrats have been engaged in in the past. The way bureaucrat-dominated politics works, the politicians promote the "visions" created by the bureaucrats. This sort of politics disregards our citizens, both in content and procedure. One might also describe it as a vehicle driven by the administration, with the politicians acting as the engine.

The atmosphere within which bureaucrat-dominated politics is conducted is insipid, anonymous, depersonalizing, and languid—monochrome, rather than in color. Worst of all, it is shrouded in suspicion, since no one has any idea where the seat of responsibility lies.

During the Cold War, Japan had two firm national goals, as I mentioned previously, and its political structure was prescribed by them. Politicians and bureaucrats alike operated within a rigid framework and, furthermore, the basic path they were to follow had already been dictated. Even though the bureaucrats drafted and determined policies, they never strayed beyond those boundaries. They were swimming in a pool rather than in the ocean.

However, since the Cold War ended and our economy became occluded, the bureaucrats' politics has changed qualitatively. It has become totally deformed. Without a new framework or direction, the bureaucrats' politics decides upon the future of this nation and its people in installments. The accumulation of policymaking practices and existing realities has imperceptibly formed our national goals, ideologies, and directions.

The bureaucrats seem to be completely unaware of these simple facts. Though they are more cognizant than anyone that we are living in different times now, they don't realize that they must change with those times. On the contrary, the fact that the old framework has collapsed and political power has weakened causes them to believe that they have been afforded an opportunity to implement those of their ideas and concepts which had previously been suppressed by politics.

The most vicious aspect of bureaucrat-dominated politics and government is the lack of interest in incorporating public sentiment into policy. The bureaucrats don't trust the ability of our citizens to make sound decisions. In fact, to the bureaucrats, the people are the recipients of their guidance and the objects of their manipulation.

Since their attitude, now ingrained, is that they are responsible for the fate of the nation and its people, the bureaucrats are convinced that they are giving more serious consideration to Japan's future than anyone else. If that were truly the case, they wouldn't be preoccupied with the interests of their ministries or bureaus. They would abolish regulations and permits that are no longer necessary. They would disband superfluous special-status corporations and nonprofit organizations, and rein in the *amakudari* system [the practice of placing former senior bureaucrats in high-paying jobs in the private sector or in public corporations]. Since they have not done so, how can they be thinking in earnest about the future of this nation and its people?

The bureaucrats think that this country will be thrown into chaos if its fate is entrusted to its brainless citizens, or to its politicians, whose focus is on elections and nothing else. That is why the bureaucrats perform their work in absolute secrecy, and set precedents so craftily that they cannot be reversed. The administration's watchwords are "continuity" and "consistency," but it is actually leading the nation down the path it has chosen. A typical example of such behavior is the Foreign Ministry's strenuous efforts to gain permanent membership for Japan on the UN Security Council. If the bureaucrats are going to postpone administrative reform, they will do the same thing with tax reform.

The opposite of bureaucrat-dominated politics, a political system whose priorities would be our citizens and politics itself, might be referred to as "people's politics." In that case, in order to determine the best direction for the nation, one based on the will of the people, the evil trend toward bureaucrat-dominated politics must be checked, and a firmly rooted trend toward "people's politics" must gain ascendance.

The very existence of bureaucrat-dominated politics in a modern democratic nation is inconsistent with the concept of democracy. The idea behind democracy is that a "people's politics" which reflects the public sentiment is an established institution. In a democracy it is assumed that all policymaking is done using procedures such as elections or other types of voting.

Superficially, bureaucrat-dominated politics appears to go through the same procedures as people's politics. For that reason, bureaucrat-dominated politics is more subtle and underhanded. The bureaucrats are ready with all sorts of procedural objections, for example: "I thought that had already been decided." "That was announced in a white paper." "I've explained that a thousand times." "We don't have the authority." "The minister didn't mention anything about this."

What is bad about bureaucrat-dominated government is that it almost always makes errors, for which even those with real power refuse to take responsibility. Whether it exists under an absolute monarchy or a democratic system, a political system that ignores public sentiment eventually collapses. History has taught us that lesson many times over.

Curbing the Runaway Administration

Even though we have been clamoring for political reorganization, we find ourselves still constrained by the 1955 system. We need to think very seriously about this. There is nothing wrong with forming parties with "new" as part of their names, or parties with names including "social democratic liberal." However, if newly formed parties can't see beyond the political community, then they will not be able to transcend the ideological bounds imposed by the 1955 system. Will they be able to respond to the demands of the times? We can create large parties that seem new, that seem clean, and that espouse noble platforms. But if they are going to operate within the limits of the separate world that is the political community, they will not be able to make the changes that the times demand. The overriding issue here is the relationship between the political community and the administration. Full-scale political reorganization cannot take place while the bureaucrats sit by, watching in amusement.

We need politics with the power to curb our runaway administration, and to lead it in the right direction. We need politics guided by public sentiment—people's politics.

Bureaucrat-dominated politics supersedes people's politics because politicians receive favors from the administration. When they use bureaucratic connections to amass votes or election money, they become indebted to the administration. Even if they do not, they must petition the administration when they want subsidies or permits. Even if they become parliamentary vice ministers or ministers, they may command respect, but they have no real power. However, the system works in such a way that they are blamed if something goes awry.

It is difficult for a politician not to become beholden to the administration. We must be prepared to lose elections. However, the demands of this new era are forcing us to bear these risks.

Full-scale political reorganization will not have taken place, nor will we have the skeleton of a political system suitable to the new era until five to 10 years have elapsed. During that time, we can expect a succession of major and minor divisions and mergers. What should politicians do during this period of transition? During the next few years, while politicians are distracted by political reorganization, what will happen if our bureaucrat-dominated government hands down selfish, arbitrary decisions on matters that affect the fates of our nation and our people?

As the power struggle in Nagata-cho intensifies, and as time goes by, Kasumigaseki will be free to do whatever it pleases, and the bureaucrat-dominated government will thrive. It will use the prime ministers of weak coalition governments that emerge from time to time to move the country in whatever direction it chooses. If it makes a blunder, it will shift the blame to whatever government or prime minister happens to be in office.

We must make preparations immediately for the establishment of a "people's government." We must create a government that can combat bureaucrat-dominated politics, with the support of public opinion, one that can keep a firm rein on the administration. This is also the fervent hope of all right-thinking bureaucrats.

Will the Hata Government Surpass the Hosokawa Government?

When I read the policy agreement concluded by the new ruling coalition, my impression was that even if the Hata government was not a "political reform government" on the order of the Hosokawa government, its special mission was tax reform.

The administration (the Ministry of Finance [MOF]) has been stressing the need for tax reform. The time is indeed ripe for tax reform, and for the most part, the policy agreement is appropriate. However, radical tax reforms must be made in concert with radical reforms of our administration, financial system, and politics. There cannot be tax reform without administrative reform. The three above-mentioned reforms, and the reform of an unequal tax system are indispensable conditions for tax reform.

Tax reform is a task that we absolutely must accomplish, and one that affords us an opportunity to make history by also reforming our administrative, financial and political systems. Fortunately, Prime Minister Hata has demonstrated his commitment to the cause of administrative reform, and is not likely to back down. After all, political and economic reforms are administrative reforms. The Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] will certainly cooperate in this effort, since it participated in the policy agreement. The LDP, too, is bound to be cooperative if enough enthusiasm is generated in other parties. If the Hata government can set this country on the right path, i.e., make inroads in administrative reform that win the approval of the public, its historical significance may surpass that of the Hosokawa government.

Toward a Serene, Generous Nation

During this period of political flux and reorganization, we of Sakigake wish to carry through with our political platform and, at the same time, to make real progress toward our goal, that is, to provide added impetus to the forces in favor of a people's government.

On 21 June 1993, the day Sakigake officially came into being, our party announced its political platform, which is as follows:

1. We defer to Japan's Constitution. We value it highly because we believe that it has been instrumental in making our nation a peaceful and prosperous one. At the same time, we will make a continual effort to review the Constitution, when the times require doing so, and to encourage the evolution of the principles set forth therein.

2. We affirm our firm commitment to ensuring that a war of aggression is never again waged. We will not attempt to attain political or military superpower status for our nation. Rather, we will make an active contribution to world peace and prosperity.

3. This planet is faced with a serious environmental crisis. In order to preserve our beautiful archipelago, our beautiful planet, for future generations, we will take an active role in developing domestic and international environmental policies.

4. We will continue to hold our imperial family, the foundation for Japan's culture and traditions, in high regard. At the same time, we will not tolerate totalitarianism in any form, but will do our utmost to achieve radical political reform, and to establish a sound parliamentary political system.

5. Since we are at the threshold of a new era, we hope that the spirit of that era will be one of self-reliance and responsibility. We will strive to make our nation one of real quality and substance, one in which social justice is firmly established.

At present, we are preparing policy outlines based on these political principles. We plan to announce them in June, on the first anniversary of the founding of our party.

In my book, *Sakigake to seiken kotai* [*Sakigake and the Change of Government*], I wrote about our vision for this nation as follows:

"We should aspire to a way of life that emphasizes quality, and we should do so in a natural way, without overextending ourselves. We should not limit our goals to improving our own position or interests, and should value substance more than form. We should take pride in our culture and traditions, and continue to cherish them. In our relationships with other nations, we should eschew the desire to become a superpower or to dominate the world but, rather, seek the respect of other nations on the merits of the values we pursue, and not our strength. We must prepare to confront those who threaten our existence or encroach upon our dignity, with courage and without fear. We should desire a pleasant environment and a simple lifestyle. The aesthetic sense of human beings should be reflected in their daily surroundings. We should be sustained by a firm spiritual strength rooted in such concepts as self-sufficiency, duty, responsibility, and service, and ensure that the weak are guaranteed protection.

"I pray that in the 21st century, both Japan and the world will be much more serene, generous places than they are now. My greatest fear is that Japan may choose the wrong path, and become a vain, base, untrustworthy nation."

Our political ideology and attitudes are very much at odds with the tendency toward bureaucrat-dominated politics. Moreover, this disparity is likely to increase steadily as time elapses. Policy trends and political attitudes emerging from future bureaucrat-dominated politics are likely to take a direction influenced by the nature of current bureaucrat-dominated politics.

Bureaucrat-Dominated Politics—Crime and Punishment

Our current bureaucrat-dominated politics and government have the following distinguishing characteristics:

1. Ideas give rise to organizations, but organizations never give rise to ideas, ideologies, philosophies, or purposes. Therefore, the principles of bureaucrat-dominated politics are soon unmasked, and the nation in which it exists is accused of being "a nation without principles" or of having "politics without principles." Principles are not meant to be explained, but to be acted upon.

2. The driving force behind bureaucrat-dominated politics is ultimately the interests of the bureaucracy, of the various ministries and agencies. Therefore, one might say that preserving the interests of an organization and making it more powerful are substitutes for ideas and principles. Thus, the policies of bureaucrat-dominated politics tend to be expansionist. When its principles are unmasked, one finds that in actuality its goals are to become larger, more powerful, and more important.

3. One particular characteristic of the administrative hierarchy is that lack of internal control over economic or financial expansion. If the people do not have enough power to force policy shifts, only external pressure can accomplish that.

4. Since all policies are intended to bring glory to a ministry or agency, there is not necessarily good coordination within the administrative hierarchy. Even if a particular ministry or agency objects to a position taken by another, it does not voice its objection publicly, but resignedly accepts the other's pursuit of its own interests.

5. Since policies are often expressions of organizational interests or greed, disagreements within ministries and agencies are suppressed, depriving them of a free atmosphere. The result is a vindictive, oppressive organization, marked by power struggles and insider informing.

6. The bureaucrats are inherently unenthusiastic about deregulation and administrative reform, both of which threaten their own positions. Administrative reforms proposed by bureaucrat-dominated politics are, for the most part, window-dressing, and tend to be the minimum necessary to escape public censure.

7. Since formal responsibility for policymaking lies with the prime minister, cabinet ministers, and the Diet, it is never clear where actual responsibility lies. Those who are actually responsible avoid that responsibility because they are "only civil servants."

8. The expansionist tendencies of the bureaucracy are reflected in such a way that foreign policy, if not controlled, takes on tendencies of supremacy, and a superpower mentality. A position of strength, rather than one of value in the international community is aspired to, and the desire for international prominence leads to the pursuit of status and power.

9. The bureaucracy's conviction that it knows what the people should want and what they need better than the people themselves do causes it to distrust politicians and the public. Therefore, its policymaking is done in secret, is stopgap, and stresses form rather than substance. The bureaucracy has no compunctions about resorting to cruel or insensitive means to achieve its ends.

Of course, the bureaucrats themselves are not ultimately to blame for the fact that bureaucrat-dominated politics is gaining force. That responsibility lies with the politicians and the public. As long as politicians who are able to extract money from the bureaucrats are considered powerful, bureaucrat- dominated politics will not disappear.

It is true that Japan's bureaucrats are extremely talented. It is also true that most of them devote themselves to their work with selflessness and dedication. The problem is that due to the absence of a people's politics, the bureaucrats must fill the gap. If they reverted to the work they were originally intended to do, the bureaucrats could be much more useful than they are today. But in order for that to happen, politicians and political parties must stop acting like "reinforcement troops for bureaucrat-dominated politics," and work to further the trend toward people's politics.

How To Put the Government in the Hands of the People

We of Sakigake intend to take the following actions, based on our perception of what needs to be done. I would like to emphasize that these are views that I personally hold at this time, and that this is not an official declaration of the Sakigake party.

1. We will extend our utmost cooperation to the ruling parties to ensure that the 1994 budget and related legislation are promptly approved by the Diet. However, we will deal with other problems, such as gaining permanent membership on the UN Security Council, foreign policy, defense, security, and the Constitution, in accordance with the political principles of our party, but without bias. Until the Hata cabinet has gotten the budget approved, there is no particular need to address these problems.

2. We will, in principle, support and cooperate with the Hata cabinet's tax reform plan. Ultimately, we will have to determine our position when the final version comes out in late June. We will want to have many of the items upon which we have reached an agreement with the SDPJ incorporated into the plan. At the same time, even if we agree on the tax reform proposal, we will not be able to support it if it does not include an acceptable administrative reform plan. Furthermore, if a foreign policy matter, or any other matter, comes up that we find unacceptable, or if we detect political maneuvering when the redistricting plan is submitted to the Diet, we may, of course, change our attitude toward this government. In other words, as long as the Hata government does not reveal itself to be a bureaucrat-dominated government, we will extend it our fullest cooperation.

3. In the meantime, we of Sakigake intend to begin preparations for the establishment of a "people's government" in order to make the current hopes for such a government a reality. After the Diet is dissolved the next time, and the next general election takes place (the Hata government may or may not still be in office at that time), we don't envisage any major change in the current political track. Since in this age, bureaucrat-dominated politics has been steered by a group of bureaucrats, a policy trend has necessarily taken shape. It should be equally possible for another new policy trend, politics of the people, to emerge, rooted in a broad ideological base, one supported by public sentiment.

The basic foundation that would support a "people's government" would be the following:

a) Japan's Constitution has been revered during its entire existence. Personally, I don't believe that we should touch the Constitution, at least until peace and security are firmly established on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia, and until we are convinced that nuclear weapons are going to be phased out. If we approach the Constitution in the way we have through the years, that is, with respect, then even if opinions about reviewing it diverge, the underlying intentions should be the same.

b) Our international contribution should be heavily weighted toward nonmilitary activities. We should provide more intellectual and technological aid and make an active contribution in areas such as environmental problems, narcotics, AIDS, and population control.

c) We will work toward reforming the United Nations, so that its composition, financial administration, and operations make it possible in every way to respond to the demands of the times. If no reforms are made, we would not participate in any effort to acquire permanent membership for Japan on the Security Council.

d) We will devote ourselves to administrative and financial reform, and form specific policies designed to correct the evils of bureaucrat-dominated politics.

e) We will endeavor to dispel public anxieties by developing proposals for structural economic and financial reforms, concentrating on three areas, housing, education, and care of the aged.

If we can obtain agreement on this basic outline, we should be able to establish a "people's government."

4. We will make every possible effort to establish such a government by appealing to the LDP and the SDPJ, as well as to all the other parties, to join us in our endeavors. We will also strive to expand and strengthen our party. We will cooperate with other parties and other politicians when we are in agreement with their policies and positions. We intend to approach the next general election with the view of the formation of an even larger new party in our horizons. When that time comes, we have resolved to devote ourselves to the role of midwife. We would like to proceed from there with the goal of establishing an even stronger "people's government."

I hope that the LDP and the SDPJ, with their large numbers, will summon the resolve to disband their parties. It is high time for the SDPJ to lower its socialist banner. They say that true heroes are men who understand the requirements of the times. Aren't these demands that are emanating from the very depths of this era "requirements of the times?" It would be ideal if like-minded politicians formed groups and proclaim their political platforms. That would be political reorganization. If politicians allow themselves to be dragged by circumstances, and continue to form alliances, we may find Japan's fate in the hands of bureaucrat-dominated politics. The sooner a "people's government" is established, the greater its historical significance will be.

Editorial Urges Debate on Exchange Rate Reform

942A0466A Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 8 Jul 94 p 5

[Editorial: "Get Involved in Currency Reform Debate"]

[Text] Office ladies who have planned on overseas trips for summer vacation are probably displaying smiles of satisfaction at the endless rise in the yen. Foreigners working in Japan who receive their pay in dollars are probably wearing wan expressions.

When one thinks about it, it is odd that the yen's external value fluctuates daily without any connection with our daily lives. However, it is troublesome for businessmen who maintain numerous overseas transactions, the profitability of which is adversely affected. There are countless stories about situations where expected profits became losses. These are the symptoms of variable exchange rates.

An international monetary group composed mainly of former currency authorities of Japan, the United States, and Europe recognized the deficiencies of the current variable exchange rate system and announced a plan to improve the current international monetary system by narrowing the breadth of the fluctuations, in conjunction with the Naples summit. We believe the proposal is timely in view of the intensifying fear associated with the recurring weakness in the dollar. We hope that the leaders assembling at the summit will not only discuss near-term stabilization of exchange rates, but also engage in in-depth discussions on system reform.

The older generation probably remembers that for a long time in the postwar period, a dollar was worth 360 yen. The dollar was backed by gold and the currencies of various nations were tied to the dollar at a fixed rate on a global basis.

The fixed exchange rate system collapsed when the United States abandoned its commitment to exchange dollars held by foreign nations for gold because it could not tolerate the outflow of gold based on its worsening balance of payments. That happened in 1971. It was a sign that U.S. economic power was declining and that the dollar had lost credibility.

Attempts to reinstate the fixed exchange rate system failed and, since 1973, we have drifted in a world of unstable variable exchange rates in which rates are dependent on foreign exchange supply and demand factors.

The initial expectation that distortions in the international balance of payments would be corrected by changes in rates has been betrayed and the imbalances have worsened. We are undergoing the routine experience of obstructions in foreign trade transactions because of sharp fluctuations in exchange rates caused by the huge two-way flow of investment capital.

The report's proposal envisioning transition to a "flexible rate range," in contrast to the strict fixed exchange system of the postwar period and the uncontrolled variable rate system of today, is realistic. A fixed-rate system is fragile as can be seen in the recent speculative attack on the European Monetary System (EMS).

The outcome for the recommendation is dependent on whether the United States is willing to stabilize the dollar in relation to other currencies. Even after the shift to variable rates and the dollar's lack of convertibility to gold, it gained status as a world currency usable throughout the world. Though plagued by international payments deficits, the United States need not be concerned with its foreign currency availability because it can print dollars and make payments. There is no way that the United States will easily abandon its privileged position in relation to the dollar.

Now is an opportune time to influence the United States into altering its attitude in the face of the unstable dollar.

If the fall in the dollar is disregarded, U.S. inflationary fears will mount, long-term interest rates will rise sharply, and the U.S. economy will be adversely affected. If U.S. currency authorities embark on serious buying of the dollar, international balance-of-payments actions will be moderated because of the need for foreign currency to be used in intervention actions.

We must envision a new international currency reform and take bold action to promote the globalization of the yen. It is important that we remove obstacles in the form of regulations and tax systems applicable to Japanese financial and securities markets and establish an environment that enables Asian nations to use the yen with ease of mind. Boosting the yen as a global currency should diminish the excessive burden placed on the dollar.

Fifty years have passed since the Bretton Woods Conference which gave birth to the postwar fixed rate system. In the area of foreign trade, a transition will take place next year from the postwar GATT system to the World Trade Organization and we should search for a monetary system compatible with the global economic structure of the post-Cold War period. The summit should be used as a departure point for such a debate.

North Korea

Memorial Service for Kim In-song Held in Seoul

SK2307111294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 23 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) held a memorial service in Seoul with solemnity on July 20 to bid the last farewell to the great leader President Kim Il-song, according to Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation.

At this painful moment when Comrade Kim Il-song departed from us before seeing the day of national reunification he desired so ardently, blood is oozing from the hearts of the vanguard fighters of Hanminjon and people, big tears streaming down their cheeks, the memorial address says.

It continues:

The great Comrade Kim Il-song, the respected father whom our people are calling again and again, their hearts splitting up, was a great man for all ages, peerless in the nation's history spanning 5,000 years, and was heaven of the 70 million fellow countrymen.

The great leader, a legendary hero, accomplished the historic cause of national liberation by routing the formidable enemy forces one million strong with his protean, superb tactics and brilliant commanding art in the hardest anti-Japanese war ever known in the human history of wars.

He exalted the prestige of Korea all over the world by founding and leading the most dignified and mighty chuche-type party, state and Armed Forces ever seen in the history of the international communist movement, and unfolded a new history of independent politics neither leaning to any big power nor wavering in any storm.

The respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song defeated the huge imperialist allied forces with chuche-based strategy and tactics in the rigorous fatherland liberation war that broke out on June 25 and built a peculiar powerful socialist state centred on the popular masses, a prosperous state independent, self-supporting and self-reliant in national defence, on the ruins. This was a mythological, epoch-making miracle which could be wrought only by such a great hero and great leader as Comrade Kim Il-song, the greatest brilliant commander and genius.

He performed another undying feat by lifting the relations between the leader and the people to blood ties and turning the whole society into a big harmonious family full of vitality, the first of their kind in history.

He also provided a powerful ideological and theoretical weapon and definite guarantee for the inheritance and accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche. This is his greatest feat which will remain shining long in history.

It is under the guidance of the great leader that Hanminjon has been able to cover a glorious course of struggle as a chuche-type patriotic vanguard and the renovation movement of our people has advanced as a raging current of independence, democracy and reunification in the teeth of harsh fascist suppression unprecedented in history.

The fatherly leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who regarded national reunification as the supreme cause of the nation and as the biggest gift he could present to the fellow countrymen, clearly indicated the most fair and reasonable principle of the independent and peaceful reunification that consummates the whole nation's desire and will for reunification, and ways for applying it.

The vanguard fighters of Hanminjon and people of all walks of life in South Korea will turn their bitter sorrow into fresh strength and fighting spirit and devote themselves to the great cause of founding a reunified confederal state independent, peaceful and neutral, regarding "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" as the only great programme for reunification.

The memorial address goes on:

We will further promote the modelling of Hanminjon on the chuche idea and invigorate the efforts for awakening the people to independence and organizing them, taking as our motto the truth that believing in and relying on the people always lead to victory. In this way, we will further intensify the patriotic struggle for fully preparing the independent driving force of renovation and winning the independence and democracy of the society.

It is the greatest pride and glory for the 70 million fellow countrymen that they have at the head of the nation Comrade Kim Chong-il praised and followed by all the people.

We the vanguard fighters of Hanminjon and people of all strata must hold sagacious General Kim Chong-il in high esteem as the sun of the nation, remain faithful to his idea and leadership, and successfully open a bright horizon for the nation, as they lived full of faith and hope, holding the fatherly leader in high esteem as the bright sun of the nation.

Though the respected leader passed away to our sorrow, the feats he performed for the country and the nation, for the time and mankind will shine long in history and our nation will always remember him through generations as the benefactor of national resurrection, a legendary hero and the father of the nation.

Guided Missiles Said Deployed in DMZ

SK2407085094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0842 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 24 (KCNA)—The South Korean bellicose elements brought four military vehicles loaded with tow guided missiles and boxes of shells and bullets into the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) from Chorwon County, South Korean Kangwon Province, in the daytime of July 21 installed them on a riverside and levelled them at a post of the People's Army, military sources said.

The bellicose elements that day deployed 90-mm recoilless guns at a post in the DMZ adjacent to Chorwon County and introduced more recoilless guns and large-caliber machineguns at the same spot on July 22.

250 armed bandits displayed war hysterics in the DMZ adjacent to Panmun and Changpung Counties on July 21.

The military provocations are grave crimes aggravating the situation in the DMZ.

If the South Korean bellicose elements continue to seek confrontation and war against North-South reconciliation and unity, despite our repeated warnings, they will meet self-destruction.

South's 'Confrontational Moves' Condemned

SK2507113694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1109 GMT 25 Jul 94

["Provocations Contrary to Spirit of North-South Top-Level Talks"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 25 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the North side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) said that all the anti-North confrontational moves committed by the South Korean authorities at a time when the entire nation and the people worldwide were bidding the last farewell to the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the lodestar of national reunification and an outstanding leader of the human cause of independence, in bitterest grief have been impudent provocations running diametrically counter to the spirit of the North-South top-level talks.

In a statement denouncing the anti-popular and anti-ethical behaviours of the South Korean authorities, the organisation said:

Today the North-South relations are going back to the phase of confrontation due to the inhuman and anti-national acts of the South Korean rulers.

The South Korean authorities can never evade their responsibility for the present situation in which the North- South relations that were heading for detente, reconciliation and unity, have been switched back to the phase of antagonism and confrontation. They will certainly have to pay dearly to the nation for this.

History shows that those who sought confrontation with the North of the same nation, going against the desire of the nation and the trend of the times never got scotfree but met their disgraceful end.

The Kim Yong-sam group will never be an exception.

The inhumane barbarians cannot be treated as human beings anywhere.

Reportage on ROK's 'Suppressing' Students

SK2507114794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1104 GMT 25 Jul 94

["Ouster of Kim Yong-sam Group, Prerequisite for Reunification"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 25 (KCNA)—The South Korean people of all walks of life denounce the Kim Yong-sam group for suppressing the people who express deep condolences on the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song, the Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation reported.

Yi Song-chol, a member of the "Patriotic Youth Society for Reunification" in Kwangju, who participated in a memorial service for President Kim Il-song on July 16, said:

"The Kim Yong-sam group is suppressing our people who burst out crying in grief when the entire fellow countrymen and humankind are crying over the death of President Kim Il-song.

"Kim Yong-sam is hoping for a 'confusion' in the North. This is a dream as foolish as expecting the earth would break apart. As long as such a depraved fellow as Kim Yong-sam, who thinks little of the nation, elementary etiquette and human morality, is left alone, the nation's unity and reunification are unthinkable."

Kim Kwang-chon, a journalist, who deeply mourned the death of President Kim Il-song at an incense-burning place in Chon-chu on July 15, told his colleagues: "Less than 30 minutes after the release of the sad news, Kim Yong-sam, far from expressing condolences, issued 'a special alert order' and 'an A-class emergency order' and indiscreetly arrested and imprisoned those who expressed condolences.

"How can he do dialogue and achieve reunification, having no courage to express condolences as a fellow countryman? His talk about 'dialogue' and 'reunification' is a ruse to cheat the people and his ulterior purpose is permanent division.

"The Kim Yong-sam group must be ousted first of all, if the country is to be reunified independently and peacefully."

Alliance Denounces Action

SK2507051194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 25 (KCNA)—The National Alliance for Democracy and Reunification (Chongukyonhap) of South Korea made public a statement on July 23 denouncing venal presidents of universities for joining in the outburst of the president of Sogang University branding the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon) as an organisation manipulated by "backstage forces", a Seoul-based radio report said.

The statement condemned the action of the venal presidents as an attempt to isolate the student movement.

It branded such utterances as unnecessary outcry for inciting consciousness of confrontation between the North and the South at a time when the national will for North-South reconciliation and reunification should be put together. The statement said that the presidents should assume political and social responsibility for it.

South Accused of Inciting 'Discord'

SK2507105294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 25 Jul 94

["Nation Will Settle Accounts With Treacherous Group"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today runs an article accusing the South Korean authorities of having incited discord, getting on the nerves of fellow countrymen who were overcome with grief at the loss of respected Comrade Kim Il-song, the great father of the Korean nation and an elder statesman of the world.

The author of the article says:

The respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song was a great leader peerless in the 5,000-year history of the Korean nation, the father of the nation, a great man recognised by the international community and an elder statesman of the world.

It is an elementary etiquette and obligation of the members of the nation to share sorrow and express condolences on the death of the father of the nation and a peerless great man who devoted his whole life to the dignity and independence of the country and the nation. Far from doing so, the South Korean authorities incited antagonism, politically abusing the sorrow of fellow countrymen. How can they be regarded as human beings with normal mentality and discretion?

Being a partner to the North-South summit talks, the chief executive of South Korea should have shown elementary etiquette, sharing the sorrow and misfortune of fellow countrymen. The respected leader's offer to meet the chief executive of South Korea in the form of North-South summit talks was a great favour for him who had been driven to a blind alley while running about like a headless fly to do harm to fellow countrymen in league with outside forces, as the press of South Korea noted. Far from expressing sorrow and condolences on the death of his dialogue partner and his benefactor, the chief executive of South Korea got on the nerves of grief-stricken fellow countrymen and incited discord. This ungrateful, villainous, inhuman and immoral act reminds one of a dog biting the person who saved it from drowning.

Expression of condolences on the death of the great father of the nation was a matter of human morality beyond politics, ideology and idea. Our nation has kept this etiquette and customs of the nation in the history of five thousand years since Tangun founded this country.

The South Korean authorities not only failed to express condolences on the misfortune of fellow countrymen but also barred the South Korean people from showing the etiquette and even provoked grief-stricken fellow countrymen. This villainous act shows they totally ignore the traditional customs and human morality and, furthermore, they have ceased to be Koreans.

There is a saying that etiquette is attractive and profitable. Frankly speaking, if the South Korean authorities had sent a message of condolence, dispatched a mourning group and allowed memorial services in South Korea as fellow countrymen and dialogue partner, as demanded by the people, they would have found themselves in a position to meet us, the dialogue partner, without compunction, looked better in the eye of the people and improved their image before the world.

Definitely, the South Korean authorities are a poor hand at politics.

They have committed one more indelible crime against the nation and history. We will never pardon it but strictly settle accounts with the South Korean ruling group for its heinous crime.

Democratic Front Condemns Group

SK2507104494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 25 Jul 94

["Kim Yong-sam Fascist Group's Barbaric Act Against People's Feelings Denounced"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 25 (KCNA)—The spokesman of the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) issued a statement on July 22 bitterly denouncing the Kim Yong-sam group's fascist suppression of the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon) as a heinous challenge to the one million students and the patriotic people revering the sun of the nation, and an unpardonable crime against the pro-democracy patriotic forces aspiring after independence and reunification, the Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation reported.

The statement said:

The Kim Yong-sam fascist group's brutal suppression of memorial services for President Kim Il-song is a barbaric campaign to totally suppress and strangle the student movement forces.

As for the memorial service of Hanchongnyon which Chongwadae [presidential offices] alleges was "manipulated" by the North, it was based on the general will of students ardently revering the leader of the nation. It cannot be incriminated at all.

The great leader President Kim Il-song, a peerless patriot and the legendary hero of the anti-Japanese struggle, was the tender- hearted father of the nation worshipped by the 70 million Koreans.

It is only too natural that people should express deep condolences on the death of the father of the nation peerless in the five thousand years of history and praise his noble intentions.

The students' activities to cherish the memory of President Kim Il-song were entirely just acts worthy of praise and must be encouraged in that they reflected the trend of the time and public opinion.

The Kim Yong-sam group, however, is suppressing Hanchongnyon, the center of unity of the one million students, linking the students who expressed condolences to the North in a far-fetched manner. This fascist outrage can be committed by nobody but beasts in human skin.

The suppression of Hanchongnyon by the authorities is designed to block popular sentiments running toward the North, mourning the death of the father of the nation, bridge over their ruling crisis, change the fervor of national reconciliation and unity pervading the North and South into the coolness of anti-North confrontation and lower the checkbar on the road of peaceful reunification.

History shows those who seek anti-communism, fascism and national division are destined to meet their destruction.

The Kim Yong-sam fascist group must heed this lesson of history, immediately stop the barbaric suppression of the popular sentiments worshiping the sun of the nation, discontinue the wholesale fascist crackdown on Hanchongnyon at once, scrap the anti-reunification fascist "National Security Law" and unconditionally release the illegally arrested students and patriotic people.

By committing without hesitation the barbaric fascist suppression that the preceding military dictators dared not, the present authorities revealed their true color as a heinous group of traitors to the nation and gang bereft of human morality and etiquette.

There can be no compromise with and leniency for the present "government" going against the people's will.

Spokesman on 'Precondition' for U.S. Ties

SK2507114194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1132 GMT 25 Jul 94

["Solution of Nuclear Issue May Be Impeded, if Improvement of North-South Relations is Set as Precondition: Foreign Ministry Spokesman"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 25 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on July 25 answered a question put by KCNA concerning the argument currently afloat that the improvement of the North-South relations must be set as "a precondition" for the improvement of the DPRK-U.S. relations at the forthcoming third stage of DPRK-U.S. talks.

He said:

As already reported, the third stage of DPRK-U.S. talks will be resumed in Geneva on August 5.

In this connection, a prospect is in sight for a package solution to the outstanding questions between the DPRK and the United States including the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula.

At this moment, the South Korean authorities are coming out with the absurd argument that the improvement of the North-South relations must the set as "a precondition" for the improvement of the relations between the DPRK and the USA at the third stage of DPRK-U.S. talks. We cannot but take a serious view of this.

In view of the present situation of the Korean peninsula, the question of the relaxation of tension and guarantee of peace in this region is a matter which must be resolved between the DPRK and the United States, the immediate parties concerned.

Judging from how the nuclear issue cropped up and how it has procrastinated till today in the Korean peninsula, it is only too clear that if a definite guarantee is given to provide a light water reactor, the hostile relations between the DPRK and the U.S. are removed and the issue of confidence building is resolved at the third round of DPRK-U.S. talks, leading to a practical improvement of the bilateral relations, a decisively favorable phase will be opened in North-South relations.

From this point of view, we cannot but consider the argument of the South Korean authorities that the improvement of the North-South relations should be set as a "precondition" for the improvement of the DPRK-U.S. relations at the third-round talks, to have been motivated by the sinister purpose of laying obstacles to the solution to the issue, not by a stand to resolve the issue in a fair way.

The world community hopes that the third-round talks arranged with so much efforts after one year of vicious cycle will progress smoothly to bear a significant fruit.

It is clear that if the improvement of North-South relations is set as "a precondition" for the improvement of the DPRK-U.S. relations at the DPRK-U.S. talks for the solution to the nuclear issue, a fatal roadblock would be erected in the way of the solution to the nuclear issue.

The South Korean authorities must act with discretion, clearly knowing their position.

More on Preconditions

SK2507143394 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry on 25 July answered a question by a KCNA reporter concerning the current argument that the improvement of North-South relations is a precondition for the improvement of DPRK-U.S. relations at the forthcoming third round of DPRK-U.S. talks. [che samdangye chomi hoedameso, pungnam kwangye kaesonul chomi kwangye kaesonui songyol chokkonuro naesewoya handanun chujangi nadolgo innungotkwa kwallyonhaeso].

He said:

As already reported, the third round of DPRK-U.S. talks will be resumed in Geneva on 5 August.

In this connection, a prospect is in sight for a package solution to the outstanding questions between the DPRK and the United States, including the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

At this moment, the South Korean authorities are coming out with the absurd argument that the improvement of North-South relations must be set as a precondition for the improvement of relations between the DPRK and the United States at the third stage of DPRK-U.S. talks. We cannot but take a serious view of this.

In view of the present situation on the Korean peninsula, the question of the relaxation of tension and a guarantee of peace in this region is a matter that must be resolved between the DPRK and the United States, the immediate parties concerned.

Judging from how the nuclear issue cropped up and how it has been procrastinated [chisok toeoon] until today on the Korean peninsula, it is only too clear that if a definite guarantee is given to provide a light-water reactor, the hostile relations between the DPRK and the U.S. will be removed and the issue of confidence building will be resolved at the third round of DPRK-U.S. talks, leading to a practical improvement of DPRK-U.S. relations, and a decisively favorable phase will be opened in North-South relations.

From this point of view, we cannot but consider the argument of the South Korean authorities that the improvement of North-South relations should be set as a precondition for the improvement of DPRK-U.S. relations at the third-round DPRK-U.S. talks, to have been motivated by the sinister purpose [pulsunhan mokchk] of laying obstacles to the solution to the issue, not by a stand to resolve the issue in a fair way.

The world community hopes that the third-round talks arranged with so much effort after one year of vicious cycles will progress smoothly to bear a significant results.

It is clear that if the improvement of North-South relations is set as a precondition for the improvement of DPRK-U.S. relations at the DPRK-U.S. talks for the solution to the nuclear issue, a fatal roadblock would be erected in the way of the solution to the nuclear issue. [haeng munje haegyore kyolchongjogin changaega chosongdoeriranungosun]

The South Korean authorities must act with discretion, clearly knowing their position.

Military Sources: U.S. Stages Air Exercises

SK2307114194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1132 GMT 23 Jul 94

["U.S. Imperialists Stage Air War Exercise Against North of Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 23 (KCNA)—Some 20 pursuit-assault planes from overseas bases and nuclear-capable F-16 fighter-bombers and A-10 assault planes belonging to the U.S. Airforce in South Korea Thursday flew to the air above the East Sea [Sea of Japan] of Korea after being refueled in flight above the sea off Kunsan, according to military sources.

They made surprise ultra-low flights above Jongson and Sangdong in an exercise of continuous strikes at ground targets.

This frantic, reckless exercise was aimed at increasing the capacity of continuous surprise bombing on the major targets in the interior of the North of Korea.

KCNA: U.S. Planes Commit 'Aerial Espionage'

SK2307103194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 23 Jul 94

["Joint War Air Games Against North"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 23 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists on July 20 sent pursuit-assault planes, a "E-3" commanding plane and "EA-6" electronic jamming planes from U.S. bases in Japan and Pacific to the sky above Umsong, South Korea, to stage another joint air military exercise against the North in coordination with the U.S. Seventh Air Force and the puppet air force of South Korea, according to military sources.

Participating in the exercise were more than 100 fighters.

Earlier, on July 19, flying corps of the U.S. Pacific Fleet launched an air surprise strike exercise against the North in the sky above Woeyon Islet, Tokjok Islet, Yoju and Kunwi, South Korea in coordination with flying corps of the U.S. Seventh Air Force.

And, the U.S. imperialists brought Japan-based "RC-135" strategic reconnaissance plane in the sky above South Korea to conduct aerial espionage on the east and west coastal and central areas of the northern half of Korea.

The reconnaissance plane committed aerial espionage on five occasions over July 11-18.

Everyday, ten reconnaissance planes such as "U-2" high altitude strategic reconnaissance planes and "RC-12" and "RV-1" tactical reconnaissance planes flew in the sky above the Military Demarcation Line day and night in the period from July 16 to 19 to make intensive photographing and electronic espionage on the northern half of Korea.

Paper on Kim Chong-il's 'Revolutionary Feats'

SK2507110694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1054 GMT 25 Jul 94

["NODONG SINMUN on Undying Revolutionary Feats of Comrade Kim Chong-il"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 25 (KCNA)—The cause of chuche will surely win because there are the undying revolutionary feats of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and the faithful people who are highly exalting them, declares NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The paper says the Korean people are now taking highest pride in living and making revolution under an illustrious leader who has performed imperishable feats for the time and revolution, which will shine through all ages.

The article headlined "People's pride in being guided by illustrious leader who has performed undying feats" says: The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il enjoys unquestioned authority as the great heir to the revolutionary cause of chuche for the imperishable feats he has performed in the course of leading the protracted and arduous revolutionary struggle at its head.

It quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"The achievements of our party are a precious wealth whereby to carry the revolutionary cause of chuche to accomplishment through generations."

The dear leader in his early years made a historical oath to accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche through generations upholding the noble intention of the great leader Comrade Kim Il- song and has led the Workers' Party of Korea and the revolution at the head over the past 30 years. He has performed greatest and most valuable feats in this course.

No words are adequate to describe the feats performed by him in the process of victoriously leading the work in all realms of the revolution and construction such as politics, economy, culture and military at the head of our party, the state and the revolutionary Armed Forces. The undying feats immensely rich and encyclopedic in content are shining as great feats unparalleled in world history.

The immortal revolutionary exploits of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il constitute the foundation stone of eternal value that makes it possible to firmly defend the blood of chuche and inherit it pure and clean generation after generation.

Ours is a great revolution that marches forward with the blood of chuche provided by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song as its lifeline.

Our party's blood of chuche is the thoughts and theories of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, his revolutionary exploits and experiences in struggle and the work method of his style.

It is the unshakable stand and will of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to accomplish the cause of chuche through generations by maintaining the blood of chuche provided by the great leader as the eternal lifeline of our party and revolution.

The revolutionary feats of the dear leader are a precious wealth and a powerful driving force that make the Korean revolution advance victoriously through any storm and an everlasting lifeline that must be firmly maintained as the guideline through the whole historical period of accomplishing the revolutionary cause of chuche.

This has been clearly proved by the fact that the farther the revolution advances, the greater the invincible vitality displayed by the feats of the dear leader Comrade

Kim Chong-il and by the fact that they powerfully encourage the people to a bright future for the victory of the cause of independence.

The undying feats of the dear leader, the eternal wealth of our revolution, are a precious fruition of his extraordinary ideological and theoretical activities, gigantic revolutionary practice and unremitting efforts and devotion.

The dear leader has been able to perform great feats guaranteeing the final victory of the chuche cause, because he, possessed of flawless traits and qualities befitting a leader of the people, has devoted his all to the people's cause of independence through his tireless and energetic activities.

That is why the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il enjoys absolute respect, love and trust of the people as a true leader of the people, who has performed greatest feats, devoting his whole life to the people.

It is the unshakable faith and will of our party and people to firmly defend and glorify through generations the undying revolutionary feats of the dear leader.

All the party members and working people must resolutely defend the feats of the dear leader and add shine to them with intense loyalty and filial piety to him and thereby safeguard the authority and prestige of the party and the leader in every way and achieve new victory and success in the accomplishment of the socialist cause of our style.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to KPA Units

SK2507074594 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] The great leader [widaehan yongdoja] of our party and people and the Supreme Commander of the Korea People's Army [KPA] Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to People's Army officers and men who showed exemplary deeds in better maintaining revolutionary historical sites in Pyongyang. The People's Army officers and men, who grievously parted with the beloved and respected leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song—the founder of the heroic KPA and the benevolent father of our people and the People's Army officers and men—actively maintained the revolutionary historical sites out of the sheer desire to always keep our leader's image deep in their hearts and elucidate the leader's great revolutionary achievements for tens of thousands of generations.

In particular, they contributed to renewing the appearances of the revolutionary historical sites where the great leader's statues are erected, including Mansudae Hill, which are strongholds of indoctrination of revolutionary tradition, by planting more grass. Uniting as one bearing the faith and will that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will be with us forever, the People's Army generals, officers, and soldiers went to 17 cities and counties, including Pyongsong, Nampo, Songchon, Chungsan, and Kwail, on the afternoon of 20 July when the central memorial service was over, cut more than 8,400 square meters of sod in about 10 hours, and transported the sod to the spots by the early morning of 21 July.

On the morning of 21 July, responsible functionaries of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces and thousands of soldiers from various People's Army units and military academies made a pledge of upholding the great leaders teaching that he left us by upholding the leadership of the Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il with loyalty in front of the great leader's statue at Mansudae Hill. Then, they transplanted the grass in the revolutionary historical sites in Pyongyang, including Mansudae Hill, Chilgol Revolutionary Museum, Pyongyang Changjon People's School, and Pyongyang Taedongmun People's School.

Numerous Pyongyang citizens, who visited the great leader's statue, were moved by the KPA officers and men, and joined them at work to deepen the people-army unity. With cooperation between the Army and the people, stairs toward the statue and paths were all cleaned up.

Through the live exemplar of the faithfulness of the People's Army officers and men, the people and the functionaries of revolutionary historical sites were greatly encouraged and reconfirmed the soldier's iron-clad faith and will to elucidate the great leader's revolutionary achievement generation after generation and devote loyalty to the comrade supreme commander.

The Supreme Commander of the KPA Comrade Kim Chong-il highly appraised the deeds of the officers and men of the People's Army and said our revolutionary Army's traits fostered by the leader [suryong] are so superb and sent thanks to them for showing good traits of the People's Army.

A meeting to convey thanks from the comrade supreme commander of the KPA was held at the Ministry of People's Armed Forces on 23 July. Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chief of the KPA General Staff, and KPA Vice Marshals Kim Pong-yul and Kim Kwang- chin, responsible functionaries of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces, generals, officers, and soldiers were present at the meeting.

The meeting conveyed thanks from the Supreme Commander of the KPA Comrade Kim Chong-il amid enthusiastic applause of the participants. Generals (Kim Chong-nam), (Hong Tae-hwan), and Officer (Han Yong-il) took part in debates to express their resolve.

Meetings to convey thanks from the Supreme Commander of the KPA Comrade Kim Chong-il were also held at People's Army units and military academies concerned.

World Peace Federation Cochairman Leaves

SK2307155194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1532 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 23 (KCNA)—Pak Po-hui, co-chairman of the World Peace Federation and chairman of the Summit Council for World Peace, who had visited Pyongyang upon hearing the sad news that the great leader President Kim Il-song passed away, left here today after concluding his mourning visit.

He was seen off at the airport by Kim Yong-sun.

Staying here from July 13 to 22, he laid a wreath before the bier of President Kim Il-song lying in state at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall and wreaths from Moon Sun-myong, president of the World Peace Federation, and Han Hak-cha, president of the World Peace Women's Federation. And he observed a moment's silence in memory of President Kim Il-song and expressed deepest condolences to Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army. He participated in a ceremony for bidding the last farewell to President Kim Il-song and the national memorial service.

Prior to his departure, he answered questions put by reporters.

Asked by a KCNA reporter how he thinks about the announcement that his trip to the North to express condolences would be dealt by law in South Korea, he said:

I, a man who was received by respected president Kim Il-song twice and a man who has intimacy with the president, visited the North to mourn over his death.

This is a humanitarian deed before politics, an action done from the national dimension above ideology and idea, a noble thing conforming to the creed of the religion I advocate, and a very natural act in view of universal ethics and morality of mankind; it cannot be a target of judicial settlement.

Japan's Efforts on Comfort Women Denounced

SK2507051994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0507 GMT 25 Jul 94

["Japan Cannot Go Without Atoning for Her Past Crimes: NODONG SINMUN"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 25 (KCNA)—The Japanese Government is reportedly examining "a measure replacing compensation" as regards the problem of "comfort women for the army."

The keynote of the "measure" is for Japan to do a kindness in the form of funding the education of women and their vocational training, exchange of young people and joint studies of history, though the compensation for the crime in drafting "comfort women for the army" has been settled.

NODONG SINMUN Monday [25 July] brands this as a mockery at the victims of the forcible recruitment of "comfort women" and the demand of the international community for a fair settlement of the criminal case.

The analyst says:

The "comfort women" case has not been settled and it cannot be solved by a sort of "kindness." It was an unheard-of anti-human crime in which the then Japanese Government and military, through a state policy, took away more than 200,000 women of Asian and European countries, mainly Korean women, and ordered and institutionalized "legally" organised rape and gang rape against them by "imperial army" soldiers.

If this criminal case is to be solved properly, the Japanese Government must admit it and apologise for it and make an adequate compensation.

But the proposed "measure" is not for the victims of the criminal case but for women in general and, absurdly enough, envisages even the exchange of young people. To make the long story short, the Japanese Government is going to smother up the criminal case.

The Japanese Government must not try to hush up by a petty trick the crime in drafting "comfort women for the army" but must lend an ear to the fair voice of the world and approach it with sincerity.

DPRK Helps Ethiopia Build Power Station

SK2307130994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1125 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 23 (KCNA)—The Dembe hydraulic power station of Ethiopia which had been built with the technological assistance of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was commissioned with a due ceremony on June 28.

Korea supplied equipment and materials for the construction of this power station and carried out survey, designing and the general supervision of engineering works with sincerity.

The power station will serve for the life of the population and the development of industry in Amanmijan region and Kefa Province of Ethiopia and supply electric power to the Bebeka coffee farm.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, the minister of mines and energy of Ethiopia said that in the course of the building of the Dembe hydraulic power station, Ethiopian technicians and experts acquired a wealth of experience and technology and a bright prospect opened for the construction of hydraulic power stations. He highly praised the disinterested efforts of the Korean technicians in the building of the power station.

Memorial Services for Kim Il-song Held in Peru

SK2207120894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1053 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 22 (KCNA)—A solemn motor procession took place in Peru on July 16 under the sponsorship of the Peru-Korea Institute of Friendship and Culture to express deep condolences on the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Cars carrying political party leaders, officials of the Peru-Korea Institute of Friendship and Culture and those who had visited Korea led by the car of Angel Castro Labarello, chairman of the institute, were all decked in flowers, with black ribbons flying.

The cars started from Jorge Chavez Square in the center of Lima at three PM July 16 and slowly threaded through the streets for two hours, with headlights on. Some passing cars joined the motorcades.

Arriving at the Korean Embassy, the participants in the procession laid wreaths and flowers beneath the portrait of President Kim Il-song and expressed deep condolences.

Meanwhile, a joint memorial service of political parties and organisations was sponsored by the popular front of workers, peasants and students of Peru and a memorial service was co-sponsored by the Peru-Korea Institute of Friendship and Culture and the Peruvian Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea in Lima.

Paper Urges People To Turn Sorrow Into Strength

SK2307050394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 23 Jul 94

["Let Us Change Sorrow Into Strength"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 23 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today calls upon all the party members and working people to turn their bitter grief at the last parting with the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song into strength and courage and rise up vigorously to accelerate the revolution and construction and accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche with the conviction of certain victory under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is quoted as saying:

"Only when we fully display the advantages of socialism by successful socialist construction, can we reunify the country at an early date and accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche as intended by the leader."

In an editorial headlined "Let Us Change Sorrow Into Strength", the paper says:

Let us effect a new great upswing in the revolution and construction by turning sorrow into strength!—this is the fighting slogan, the slogan of faith, that the entire party members and people should hold high today. Only by advancing vigorously under this revolutionary slogan can we increase the might of our revolutionary ranks in which the leader, the party and the masses are united with a single heart and powerfully accelerate the final victory of the revolutionary cause of chuche.

We must demonstrate to the full in the work for socialist construction today the might of singleheated unity that has been firmly built up into indestructible strength.

To turn the sorrow today into strength and march toward a new victory in high spirits means to live and make revolution as desired by the great leader.

The entire party members and working people must cherish deeper in their hearts the unshakable faith that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is always with us.

They must be firmly convinced that they are sure to win because Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great successor to the revolutionary cause of chuche and the dear leader of our party and our people and supreme commander of the revolutionary Armed Forces, is standing at the head of our revolution.

For us the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is immediately the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, and Comrade Kim Chong-il is immediately the great leader.

We must fight staunchly with the firm conviction that we shuld not be afraid of any adversity and any formidable enemy and we will be ever-victorious when there is for us the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, a peerless great man and iron-willed brilliant commander.

The true way of overcoming the sorrow today and pushing ahead with the revolution and construction with a great might lies in carrying on our struggle, united closely around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is our destiny and future.

The entire party members and working people must make a new resolution and brace themselves up with the remorseful consciousness that they failed to attend to the fatherly leader longer with loyalty and filial duty and must remain unfailingly loyal and filial to the sagacious leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and defend him at the cost of their lives. We must firmly establish a leadership system whereby the entire party, the whole country and the whole army act as one under the leadership of the dear leader and adopt the revolutionary morale of unconditionally carrying through the ideas and policies advanced by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The editorial stresses:

All the party members and working people must always remember the firm pledge they made before the bier of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and fulfil it energetically in their daily work and life.

Loyalty and filial piety to the party and the leader do not lie in tears and high-toned pledge, but in devoted efforts to carry out the revolutionary tasks assigned by the party in a responsible manner.

At this moment when they must turn sorrow into strength and courage and rise up resolutely, the workers, agricultural working people, intellectuals and the People's Army officers and men must creditably carry out their revolutionary tasks in a responsible manner as they pledged before the bier of the great leader.

KCNA Reports Upswing in Production in Nation

SK2307112694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1109 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 23 (KCNA)—An upswing in production is reported from various domains of the national economy in Korea.

The whole country is now aboil with revolutionary enthusiasm to loyally uphold the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il with increased production as desired by the fatherly leader President Kim Il-song in his lifetime.

The Hungnam fertilizer complex, a leading chemical fertilizer producer, has lifted its daily output 20 percent above the daily average early in the month.

The workers of the compounding system raised the ammonia output 30 percent in recent few days compared with the like period of early July by keeping the large-size compounding tower and 4,000 hp [horse power] compressor in full-capacity operation.

The workers of the steel works No. 8 have boosted the daily iron and steel output 25 percent.

The Sinuiju textile mill has of late markedly increased the textile output above the corresponding period of last month through an energetic multi-machine, multi-spindle tending movement.

The Tongdaewon garment factory has already fulfilled its plan for July .

Fresh innovations have been reported from the Yongsong associated machinery bureau, the Namhung youth chemical complex, the February 26 factory and many other units.

KCNA Reports Increase in Power Production

SK2307130094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1122 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 23 (KCNA)—Power producers who bade the last farewell to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song with bitterest grief have effected innovations in power production by overcoming today's sorrow with courage.

As of July 20, they increased power production by 24 percent compared with the first 10 days of July .

In this period, power production of the thermo-power plants showed a 50 percent gain. Pukchang and Pyongyang thermal power complexes have improved equipment and technical management and operated power equipment more effectively, thus increasing power production each by 53 percent and 19 percent.

The Changjagang power station, Kanggye youth power station, Changjingang power station, March 17 united hydraulic power station and other hydro-power stations are now turning out more electric power than the daily assignments.

South Korea

Publisher: Kim Chong-il Hopes To Meet Clinton

SK2307094294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0933 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 23 (YONHAP)—New North Korean leader Kim Chong-il hopes to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton not in the distant future, a South Korean newspaper publisher who attended the late Kim Il-song's funeral in Pyongyang last week said Saturday in Beijing.

KYODO news service, reporting from Beijing, quoted Pak Po-hui, president-publisher of Seoul's SEGYE TIMES, as saying that he had met Kim Chong-il after the memorial meeting of his father last Wednesday.

Pak was further quoted as saying that because the promise his father made to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter is effective, he will pursue the high-level talks with the United States and the inter-Korean summit postponed as a result of Kim Il-song's death.

Kim Hopes 'To Visit Washington'

SK2307115794 Seoul YONHAP in English 1143 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Beijing, July 23 (YONHAP)—North Korea's new leader Kim Chong-il will pursue the inter-Korean summit postponed by Kim Il-song's death in obedience of his deceased father's will, adding the summit will take place when the date is set because all the preparations have been done, Pak Po-hui, president-publisher of the SEGYE TIMES, said here in Beijing Saturday.

In a press conference held at a hotel upon arriving from Pyongyang Saturday morning, Pak said he met Kim Chong-il, at Kim's request, in his office in the presidential palace for 40 to 50 minutes on the morning of last Wednesday right after the memorial meeting of the late Kim Il-song.

"The inter-Korean summit agreed by South and North Korea is as effective as ever and I'll do a good job in obedience of my father's will," Pak quoted the younger Kim as saying.

Kim, asking Pak to convey his thanks to U.S. President Bill Clinton for his condolences over his father's death, expressed hope to visit Washington to meet Clinton, following his father's wish to visit the United States.

Pak, who is concurrently serving as chairman of the Unification Church's Summit Conference for World Peace and co-chairman of the World Peace Union, said he is carrying Kim Chong-il's verbal messages to the South Korean and U.S. Governments but declined to comment on the contents.

The younger Kim's succession to his father as North Korean leader is quite certain in view of North Korea's situation, and inter- Korean and U.S.-North Korean problems, as well as the nuclear issue, will be smoothly solved, he remarked.

Predicting that North Korea will make an important announcement concerning Kim Chong-il's succession next week, Pak said the younger Kim "has a rotund voice and warm hands and he walks as normal as any other men." He appeared having no health problem, contrary to rumors, he added.

Kim was energetic and active and confident in conversation, appearing that he has a good grip of his country, Pak said.

In a statement he read for 10 minutes before answering questions, Pak said his visit to Pyongyang was intended for two purposes: One was to attend the late Kim Il-song's funeral service to offer his condolences and the other was to meet North Korea's new leaders and cover the North Korean situation after Kim Il-song's death as a journalist.

He said he thinks he has achieved these objectives.

On his activities in North Korea, he said he had followed the spirit of humanism and Rev. Moon Sun-myong's teaching of true love in Pyongyang. He visited Pyongyang with a firm belief that he can be of some help to national unification, he added.

Asked about the South Korean Government's making a issue of his visit, he replied that he visited Pyongyang because he thought it was right, adding it is up to the government whether or not he committed a crime by visiting North Korea.

Publisher on Regime's Solidity

SK2407060494 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 24 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Pak Sung-chun on a news conference between Pak Po-hui, president of the SEGYE ILBO company, and ROK correspondents in Beijing on 23 July]

[Text] [Reporter's note] Pak Po-hui, president of the SEGYE ILBO company, entered Pyongyang on 13 July to express his condolence on Kim Il-song's death. Upon his return to Beijing on 23 July, he gave a series of news conference: first to foreign correspondents at the World China Hotel in Beijing, then later that day to ROK reporters in his hotel room. The following are questions and answers from the second news conference.

[Question] The most important concern for now is how solid is the Kim Chong-il regime?. Were there signs of a power struggle in North Korea?

[Pak Po-hui] I did not see any abnormalities in Secretary Kim Chong-il's health when I met him personally. His hands were warm [hukkun haekko] and his voice rotund [urongchago himiissotta]. He played a leading role in organizing the funeral, even personally selecting a picture of Kim Il-song among hundreds, and having a Kim Il-song portrait painted based on that picture. That large portrait was aboard the hearse which preceded Kim Il-song's coffin.

[Reporter's note] Throughout the news conference with foreign correspondents which took place prior to his news conference with ROK correspondents, President Pak called Kim Chong-il "his excellency" or "Secretary Kim Chong-il."

[Question] How do high-ranking North Korean officials view the Kim Chong-il regime?

[Pak] High-ranking officials said: It has been said outside North Korea that the Kim Chong-il regime may last for three days at the shortest, or three years at the longest. This is an insult to North Korea.

They added: "Kim Chong-il is a person who can do bold things in the future with a surprisingly progressive and more vigorous attitude [apuro nollaul chongdoro chinchwijogigo to pangnyogikke taedamhan irul halsuinnun saram]."

[Question] What is the political standing of Kim Pyong-il in the North Korean leadership?

[Pak] I heard that Kim Song-ae and Kim Pyong-il were present at the bier on the first day (11 July). Kim Chong-il's sister, Kim Kyong-hui, was present every time.

[Question] You called Kim Chong-il "his excellency" during your news conference with foreign correspondents. This term can be translated "Kim Chong-il kakha."

[Pak] Do not take issue with this. I always called him "Secretary Kim Chong-il" in Korean. As for the English expression, I merely read what Americans wrote for me [as published]. This is not a "reckless reference."

[Question] Would you elaborate on your meeting with Kim Chong- il?

[Pak] After the memorial service, I met him at the Presidential Office of the Kumsusan Assembly Hall for approximately one hour, from around 1120 until right before lunch on 20 July. Upon seeing me, Secretary Kim asked me to cordially convey his appreciation to Moon Sun-myong, president of the Unification Church.

[Question] Do you plan to disband the Anticommunist Alliance (led by the Unification Church)?

[Pak] No.

[Question] Did Kim Chong-il mention anything about President Kim Yong-sam during his meeting with you?

[Pak] No.

[Question] How did Kim Chong-il view the North-South summit?

[Pak] I said: President Kim Il-song passed away right before the North-South summit. What will you do about a North-South summit?

He replied: "I will proceed with the talks [chal hae nagayagjyo] in obedience to my father's will. Preparations have been made. All that is left is to set a date."

[Reporter's note] After using the term "sogo" [passed away], he added: "I should use such an expression in his presence."

[Question] How do you appraise the support for Kim Chong-il based on what you saw in Pyongyang?

[Pak] It seems Kim Chong-il is in the same position as Kim Il- song. My impression was that the first generation of revolutionaries will remain in their posts while the elite, including Kim Yong-sun, will advance rapidly. The elite deplores the fact "the outside knows too little about the North."

[Question] What is the background of the postponement of the funeral?

[Pak] They said too many local cadres wanted to have a final look at the bier and pay homage. If they did not get a chance it would be too heartbreaking, thus the postponement was inevitable.

[Question] Did you receive any negative impressions about the Kim Chong-il system during your condolence activities in Pyongyang?

[Pak] I could not see any signs of that kind during the 10 days. The two young maids who cleaned my lodging kept crying while they cleaned the toilet. The cook also cried so much his eyes turned red.

[Question] What was your general impression regarding the funeral of Kim Il-song?

[Pak] The mourning was not fake but natural. My eyes were also filled with tears when I saw the compatriots crying. It was similar to the sorrow of losing a parent.

[Question] What was the exact cause of Kim Il-song's death?

[Pak] They said it appeared he had overworked himself during his meeting with former U.S. President Carter in June. He looked healthy, but apparently knew he was dying. Kim Il-song reportedly made an extraordinary final effort towards this end. There is also a saying that he was shocked by the recent deaths of his beloved generals one after another.

[Question] Are you going to keep calling him "Mr. Secretary Kim Chong-il [Kim Chong-il Pisonim] when you are back in Seoul?

[Pak] Reconciliation is possible when the North and South respect each other, isn't it? Of course I will call him "Secretary Kim Chong-il" on formal occasions, and "Mr. Secretary Kim Chong-il" on informal ones.

[Question] How do you think SEGYE ILBO readers will react to your conduct in North Korea as regards your nationality (as an ROK citizen) and the ROK people's sentiment?

[Pak] Please, let SEGYE ILBO handle the business of SEGYE ILBO. Is it not mutual forgiving and love that form the basis for reunification? In fact, there is no newspaper that is more anti- communist than SEGYE ILBO. Because of its anti-communist character, it is unlikely to involve itself with chuche followers. As a big brother, the South should look upon North Korean affairs with confidence and sympathy.

[Question] Do you think the North invaded the South or that the South invaded the North in the Korean War?

[Pak] (Looks at the questioner for awhile) Are you asking this question because you really do not know? I firmly believe the North invaded the South, and I am one of the victims. I was deployed as a bullet shield on the first day of the Korean War, but God saved my life.

[Question] Then how am I suppose to understand the fact that you were full of tears when you offered condolences?

[Pak] Tears are natural. I never said I shed tears, and even if I did, it is personal. After áll, we have a connection with the North because of me, one out of 45 million people.

[Question] Which passport did you use to enter North Korea?

[Pak] I had both an ROK passport and a U.S. green card.

Ministry Revokes Pak's Publishing License

SK2507023094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0220 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 25 (YONHAP)—The Information Ministry canceled Pak Po-hui's license as president-publisher of the vernacular daily SEGYE ILBO and six other periodicals Monday [25 July] on the grounds that his citizen registration in South Korea expired July 18.

Pak, who has a permanent resident permit in the United States, caused a sensation in South Korea by traveling to North Korea for the funeral of its five-decade ruler, Kim Il-song, without the government's permit.

Authorities here said they will arrest Pak as soon as he returns to Seoul. Pak is reportedly on his way to the United States.

The ministry notified the SEGYE ILBO that under the Domestic Publication Law, a person who does not have a resident address in South Korea cannot register as a publisher and asked the paper to take appropriate measures.

Pak is listed as publisher of seven periodicals including the daily.

A three-month publication suspension is due if a company continues to issue a periodical even after its publisher has lost his permit, and the publisher himself faces a maximum fine of 1 million won.

The Information Ministry said Pak has had a U.S. resident permit since 1965. He used his citizen registration card, listing an address in eastern Seoul, when he registered as president-publisher of the SEGYE ILBO on Nov. 25, 1991, the ministry said.

The law prohibits a U.S. resident from possessing a citizen registration card, the ministry said, and the card expired as of July 18.

Pak has been publishing a daily, two weeklies, three monthlies and a quarterly.

Democratic Party Denounces Pak's Activities

SK2507050294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0452 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 25 (YONHAP)—The opposition Democratic Party [DP] has been blasting SEKYE ILBO president-publisher Pak Po-hui for his recent activities in North Korea, including paying his respects to the late President Kim Il-song.

The opposition party has denounced Pak's activities in North Korea as "irresponsible" since he represents a newspaper and as a violation of pertinent laws.

Party spokesman Rep. Pak Chi-won commented Monday that even though Pak has permanent U.S. residency, his visit to North Korea to express condolences over Kim Il-song's death without government permission violated the law and did not reflect the national sentiment.

"Pak's terminology used at a press conference in Beijing is not very appropriate and is regrettable," the spokesman said in an apparent reference to Pak's having called new North Korean leader Kim Chong-il "his excellency."

The DP's strong denouncement of Pak can be interpreted as an effort to restore its image, damaged through recent remarks by party lawmakers including supreme council member Yi Pu-yong touching on the issue of dispatching a consolatory mission to Pyongyang over the death of the late President Kim.

Political observers explain that the opposition party has no choice but to denounce Pak to eliminate the people's suspicions over the party's "ideological colors."

This gesture is doubly important as the political parties are engaged in election campaigning for the Aug. 2 by-election, they said, adding that the controversy over condolences on Kim Il-song and the chuche (self-reliance) ideology will influence voters in the three electoral districts.

One of the DP's members, Rep. Kwon No-kap, described Pak's activities without government permission as untoward and his description of Kim Chong-il as inappropriate.

Rep. Kang Chang-song said that "Pak's visit to Pyongyang should have been made in compliance with the laws and in consideration of the people's sentiment and South-North relations," terming his visit to the North "petite heroism."

Various analyses have been advanced by every sector of the party with regard to the background of Pak's North Korean trip.

One party postholder said that the Unification Church has made enormous investments in North Korea and that his visit was directed by church leader Mun Son-myong, who wanted assurances from Korean leaders that the church's investment projects will be guaranteed even after Kim's death.

Kim Chong-il is the pipeline for the Unification Church's investment in North Korea, he said. Therefore, Pak may not return to Seoul and give up his presidency of the newspaper when his activities in North Korea are under judicial review.

Weaknesses of Kim Chong-il as Leader Assessed

SK2307060794 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 22 Jul 94 p 4

[By Ku Pon-yong]

[Text] After the memorial service for Kim Il-song held on 20 July, more people have become pessimistic rather than optimistic about the future of a Kim Chong-il system which would follow power succession because Kim Chong-il is said to have many weaknesses.

Specialists of North Korean affairs within the ROK Government, including those from the National Unification Board, summarize the Kim Chong-il system's weaknesses in the following five categories:

First, the weakest point darkening his future is the fact that he does not have follower forces equal to that of Kim Il-song. This was initially proven in the Kim Il-song memorial service on 20 July, which was regarded as a ceremony to express support to Kim Chong-il. The fact that Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, who ranks eighth in the hierarchy, read the memorial address may be indicative of the reluctance of core members, ranked two to seven, of reading the memorial address, rather than the rise in ranks of those under Kim Chong-il's influence.

If this is the case, even if Kim is enthroned as the leader [suryong] in name, actual policies are expected to be decided by the so-called "party-level ruling system" based on agreement by the members of the party Political Bureau, including O Chin-u, Kang Song-san, and Pak Song-chol. It will be similar to the example in a monarchy where the power of the court may supercede that of a weak king and the possibility of power struggle is even higher.

Kim Chong-il's supporters are centered around the alumni of Mangyongdae Revolutionary School and Kim Il-song University and grew up with twenty years of succession lessons from his father's generation, the "first generation of revolution." While they are accustomed to sharing special benefits, they do not have the "blood-tie" relations of Kim Il-song's guerrilla comrades, and thus may turn their backs whenever a situation is judged to be disadvantageous.

Another dilemma faced by Kim is that even though he has to make the most of his father's charisma by succeeding Kim Il-song's "revolutionary cause" including the chuche idea in order to strengthen the foundation of power, he has yet to clear that up in order to avoid international isolation and economic difficulties.

In other words, externally, he has to stress the chuche idea and "socialism of our style" but internally, he cannot but at least partially introduce opening-up and market economy principles. This would inevitably weaken the justification of the succession to inherit revolution.

The third vulnerable point restricting his action is the dilemma that he could not easily reform and open up in fear of shaking the establishment although he recognizes the need.

He is faced with the inevitable situation in which he has to at least make a partial economic opening to solve the economic difficulties he inherited from his father along with the title of the leader [suryong]. It is conceivable that he will push ahead with the projects of Najin and Sonbong special economic zones, and development of the Tumen River.

However, as the people working in the special economic zones cannot be locked up in the area forever, the wind of capitalism and outside information will gradually spread throughout North Korea. This would inevitably crumble Kim's ruling foundation little by little from the very bottom.

The faded effect of the "nuclear card," which had worked effectively according to North Korea's intention, is also a tragic factor to him. Without the charisma equivalent to Kim Il-song's, he cannot easily make a choice between enforcing the nuclear development which would result in international pressure, and giving up nuclear which would be challenged by the hard-line force within the military.

On top of these, rumors surrounding his health, which have become very likely after the haggard look at the memorial service, is another unlucky omen shadowing his destiny.

DPRK Situation at PRC Border Assessed

SK2307093494 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 23 Jul 94 p 5

[By correspondent Yi Kil-u from Tumen]

[Text] Tumen bridge, which had been closed tightly to traffic upon the death of North Korean President Kim Il-song, reopened on 22 July. The PRC's Tumen Immigration Office and North Korea's Namyang City border checkpoint allowed North Koreans, Chinese, and ethnic Koreans in China to pass over Tumen bridge at 0820 on 22 July [2320 GMT 21 July].

Traffic between Tumen in Yanbian, China and North Korea's Namyang, North Hamgyong Province, over the Tumen bridge resumed 13 days after it was blocked on the afternoon of 9 July when the death of President Kim was announced. Ethnic Koreans and Chinese people, who had been locked inside North Korea, began leaving North Korea over the Tumen bridge on 22 July.

After the Tumen bridge reopened, three six-tonne mail trucks and a van came over to China from North Korea. They came one after another at two to three-minute intervals from 08:20.

Then, a high-ranking public official crossed Tumen bridge in a black old-model Grandeur [a Hyundai model] followed by a Chinese and an ethnic Korean who walked across the bridge.

At 11:00, peddlers of North Korean products crossed Tumen bridge. The peddlers, riding in a white van, laid down their bundles from North Korea, and took about an hour to clear customs at Tumen Immigration Office. Most of their wares are fish and some were impounded by customs.

A peddler, who insisted on anonymity, said: "There are about 20 peddlers in Onsong, North Hamgyong Province. They did not return because they did not sell all the goods they brought over before the funeral." When asked about the situation in North Korea, another peddler said stiffly: "Why ask when they are so woeful?"

The North Korean side apparently had asked these peddlers not to talk about the situation in North Korea upon their return.

North Koreans received food distributions during the funeral and some even received water and ice cream free of charge at the memorial services. According to North

Korean sources, North Korean authorities distributed special flour and corn to residents on 14 July. A five-member family received 30 kg.

While the food shortage in North Hamgyong Province worsened this year, this was the first special distribution of food since November of last year.

North Koreans reportedly complained that the late President Kim Il-song did not receive proper reports on the food shortage. President Kim learned about the food shortage when "people's hero" Chong Sun-sil, 52, directly reported to President Kim after failing to import 2,000 tonnes of grain from China when she came to Sambong, Unsong County, North Hamgyong Province in June.

President Kim reportedly gave a personal instruction a day before he died to solve the food shortage in Hamgyong Province after receiving the direct report from Chong, who is called "the daughter of the leader [suryong]."

North Korean media have been calling Secretary Kim Chong-il "the great fatherly leader" since 21 July and are using all the titles of President Kim for Secretary Kim Chong-il. Songs praising Secretary Kim Chong-il have been newly composed and promoted.

According to North Korean sources, an old slogan praising President Kim Il-song "We wish President Kim Il-song longevity" was replaced with "President Kim Il-song will live forever among our people" in villages and urban areas.

North Koreans reportedly feel that Kim Chong-il's stepbrother Kim Pyong-il and stepmother Kim Song-ae have been driven away from the core of the power by Kim Chong-il because the two did not show up in the funeral and memorial services repeatedly televised by North Korean broadcast.

Along with this, North Koreans are reportedly appraising the new leader Kim Chong-il in various ways.

Unidentified Visitor Gives Impressions of DPRK

SK2407093494 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 24 Jul 94 p 6

[By reporter Kim Tong-sop from Beijing]

[Text] A person who visited North Korea after Kim Il-song's death, attended the funeral and memorial service during his nine-day stay in Pyongyang, and met Kim Chong-il twice said that there are many doubts about the cause of Kim Il-song's death, adding: "Kim Yong-sun, a Workers Party of Korea secretary in charge of the affairs of the South, is now emerging as the second man [to Kim Chong-il]." The following is the summary of the remarks which this person made at a certain place in Beijing on 23 July.

I did not think of anything special about Kim Il-song's death when I expressed my condolence before Kim Il-song's body. However, when I met various people later, I felt the cause of his death was suspicious. Kim Il-song gave on-the-spot guidance at a place 35 km away from downtown Pyongyang on 6 July. And, he called in cadres on the morning of 7 July to give them tasks. He was this healthy. However, it was announced that Kim Il-song died at 0200 on 8 July. It is strange for a healthy man to die in less than a day.

When I quoted a South Korean broadcasting station—which I listened to with a radio that I carried—as reporting that "Kim Il- song may have died in Mt. Myohyang," a cadre said: "Does the place of the leader's [suryongnim] death matter?"

All the many cadres I met kept silent about the cause of Kim Il- song's death. A close cadre said: "Only a few people know how the leader [suryongnim] died."

People whom I met in Pyongyang said to me: We heard that "Kim Chong-il has nothing to do when North-South summit talks are over [tense as published]," that "if Kim Il-song carries out North Korea-U.S. talks and North-South summit talks by himself, his successor will be in very bad shape [tense as published]," and that "People who support Kim Chong-il are very much displeased with the fact that Kim Il-song gave Kim Song-ae [Kim Il-song's wife] a chance to appear when he met Carter."

Thorough checks and searches were conducted when we met Kim Chong-il. General Guard Bureau officials came to our guest house to conduct initial checks and searches: There were a total of five checks and searches at such places as the front gate, corridor, and reception room of the presidential palace. There were six checks and searches if I include one at a metal detector. All traffic had been banned since two hours before Kim Chong-il left for the memorial service.

Kim Chong-il looked healthy. He looked haggard but he did not seem to suffer from a disease. His face was a little suntanned. Every time he met people, he asked them to help him, while grabbing their hands with both of his hands. This gave me the impression that this was not an act out of courtesy but an act of appealing and that he may lack a management capability.

However, Kim Chong-il's attitude toward Kim Pyong-il and Kim Song-ae, "a side stalk," seemed to be stern. Kim Pyong-il and Kim Song-ae have reportedly not appeared in the presidential palace, where Kim Il-song's body is enshrined, ever since they paid a condolence visit early on.

High-level North Korean officials often expressed their hope that South-North summit talks will be held soon. North Korean cadres thought that an early South-North summit would help elevate Kim Chong-il's position. They said the "comrade leader" himself thought so.

I visited Kim Il-song's bier twice. When I visited there for the first time, I found commanders from the three armed services standing in a queue awaiting their turn, ahead of me. All those military commanders, without exception, wrote on the visitors' register that "they will uphold Kim Chong-il by becoming guns and bombs."

There were many large wreaths around the body. Among them, the wreaths from Moon Sun-myung, president of the World Peace Federation, and from Pak Po-hui, president of SEGYE ILBO, were the largest. President Pak seemed to be treated on the same footing as prime minister, and he was always accompanied by Pak Kyong-won, general president of North Korea's Kumgangsan Development Group.

Kim Il-song's body was clean and well preserved in a vacuum glass coffin, which was nearly two pyong wide. It was covered with red cloth from neck to toe, and his face looked to have light make-up. The area around Kim Il-song's stomach was bulging, and it was somewhat strange.

I could see those who belong to the first generation of the revolution, such as O Chin-u and Yi Chong-ok, around Kim Il-song's body. Their faces had no sign of sorrow. They were expressionless and seemed to abide by the inevitable.

Kim Yong-sun served as the principal mourner on various important occasions. Thus, I had the impression that he was the virtual second man.

During the hearse parade following the funeral service, Kim Chong-il was in a car close behind the hearse of Kim Il-song. Kim Chong-il reportedly said: "As the leader passes away on this hot day, I let air-conditioners of all cars, including mine, stop operating." The coffin on Kim Il-song's hearse seemed to be empty. The hearse returned to the presidential palace after the parade, but I could not see anyone carrying out Kim Il-song's body out of the coffin on the hearse.

The situation of Pyongyang citizens' ration seemed to be considerably improved during Kim Il-song's funeral. People I met said they had been given "rations of quality supplies." The North Korean economic situation, however, was still bad. A woman, who participated in the memorial service as a representative of the farmers, was wearing vinyl shoes without stockings. People from the outskirts of Pyongyang said they came to the site of the memorial service on foot early in the morning as instructed by the authorities. According to an advance direction, people were distributed to sidewalks by districts on the day of the memorial service. The weather was so hot that tens of people mobilized to the sidewalks fainted from the heat.

Seoul, Japan on Consortium for DPRK Reactor

SK2307121994 Seoul YONHAP in English 1211 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Japan have agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation among Asia-Pacific nations in the U.S.-North Korea meeting in Geneva early next month paving the way to complete solution of the North Korean nuclear issue.

In a meeting here in Seoul Saturday afternoon, Korean and Japanese Foreign Ministers Han Sung-chu and Yohei Kono also agreed, in principle, to form a consortium to help North Korea install a light-water nuclear reactor, provided that North Korea guarantees the freezing of its nuclear arms development program.

But Minister Kono reportedly opposed Minister Han's proposal that South Korea provide a new reactor to North Korea from a far-flung view of nuclear development in a united Korea, with South Korea, Japan and the United States participating in the proposed consortium on fixed rates of burden sharing.

On the issue of Korean comfort women employed as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during World War II, Kono unofficially offered to set up a self-support organization for Asian women, but Han said it should be a project directly in the interest of comfort women.

The two foreign ministers also exchanged views on cooperation between the two countries in the coming ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) regional forum and post-ministerial conferences, as well as on the North Korean situation after Kim Il-song's death.

Japanese Prime Minister Murayama's Visit Reported

Seoul Radio

SK2307055094 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0505 GMT 23 Jul 94

[By Kim Chin-sok from Chongwadae, presidential offices]

[Text] Japanese Prime Minister Murayama arrived at Seoul airport about an hour ago at 13:10 [0410 GMT], and directly went to National Cemetery to pay his respects. He is now resting at his lodging.

DPRK Urged To Clarify Actions

OW2307124094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1223 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 23 KYODO—Japan and South Korea on Saturday urged North Korea to clear up the suspicion surrounding its past activities in allegedly developing nuclear arms.

Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and South Korean President Kim Yong-sam clarified their position during a question- and-answer session with Japanese and South Korean reporters at a joint news conference.

The news conference followed a one-and-a-half-hour summit between the two leaders at the "Blue House" South Korean presidential residence.

Murayama told reporters, "Japan firmly regards it a prerequisite that North Korea resolve the nuclear problem once and for all," including suspicion over its past development of nuclear arms when he was asked if Japan will provide Pyongyang light-water nuclear reactor technology.

Murayama said he withholds further comments, adding he has to carefully watch the progress of U.S.-DPRK high-level talks.

Kim followed Murayama, stating, "it is South Korea's consistent position that North Korea should guarantee transparency not only concerning present and future nuclear issues, but also concerning its past nuclear activities."

In fielding a Japanese reporter's query on the proposal to provide light-water reactors to Pyongyang, Kim said, "I understand your question concerns whether South Korea is ready to provide light-water reactor technology if North Korea provides the transparency."

"If it would help bring about such a solution...South Korea would provide aid to finance the construction of a light-water nuclear reactor," the president said.

Light-water reactors produce less plutonium than the graphite- moderated reactors currently in use in North Korea, thereby reducing the potential for diverting nuclear fuel for production of nuclear weapons.

South Korea has consistently said North Korea should clear up allegations by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency that it has already developed and possesses one or two atomic bombs by extracting plutonium from its 5-megawatt nuclear reactor.

Murayama also told reporters, concerning Pyongyang's response to the nuclear row under its de facto leader Kim Chong-il, "it is critical for the new North Korean leadership to alleviate international anxiety over its nuclear program in the spirit of promoting dialogue and cooperation."

"Only then would the international community welcome North Korea as a member," said Murayama, chairman of the Social Democratic Party whose close ties with North Korea had stirred up concern in Seoul over Japan's response to the nuclear issue under the Murayama administration.

On his talks with Murayama, Kim said, "we confirmed that Japan's position on Japan-North Korea relations will remain unchanged."

He was apparently referring to Japan's long-avowed policy that it would never normalize diplomatic relations with Pyongyang unless Pyongyang first cleared up the suspicion over its alleged nuclear arms program.

Murayama also said, "concerning North Korea's alleged nuclear weapons development, I told the president in clear language that Japan's policy will not change even under my administration."

In turn, Kim said, "since Murayama has clearly said that Japan will maintain its policy on Japan-South Korea relations, our anxieties have been alleviated, although some South Korean citizens have been anxious (about the direction of Japan's policy) under his new administration."

Relations To Remain 'Steady'

SK2307092894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0855 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 23 (YONHAP)—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam and Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama confirmed Saturday that Seoul-Tokyo relations will remain same and steady despite the emergency of Japanese prime minister from North Korea- friendly Social Democratic Party.

Accenting close Seoul-Tokyo-Washington consultations on the North Korean nuclear situation, Murayama called for a "conclusive " solution to the problem.

He declined to comment on Tokyo's position toward assisting Pyongyang in replacing its nuclear reactor system, saying he wants to watch first the negotiations between North Korea and the United States.

The prime minister apologized again for the atrocities caused during the 1910-1945 Japanese colonial rule over Korea and was "looking for ways on how to sincerely express apology and regrets" in terms of concrete actions to be announced as soon as possible.

Saturday's summit was the first between South Korea and Japan after Murayama, head of the Social Democratic Party, took office. Murayama's emergence caused concern here that he might start following his party lines and lean in favor of Pyongyang.

"I have told the president unequivocally that development of friendly, cooperative ties with the Republic of Korea, with whom we share common values of freedom, democracy and market economy, is one of the most important pillars to Japan's foreign policy in my cabinet as well," Murayama told the press conference after the summit.

"We have made clear at the summit today that the diplomatic policy of the two countries will not be even singularly difference from the past," President Kim said when asked how Murayama's cabinet will influence bilateral relations.

The prime minister said he explained to the South Korean president Tokyo will deal with North Korea through diplomatic normalization talks, suspended for over a year by the nuclear debacle, in close consultation with South Korea and the United States.

Murayama had come to Seoul in the aftermath of the death of Kim Il-song, North Korea's five-decade-long ruler. Japan is one of the allies closely involved in efforts to solve the North Korean nuclear problem and is expected to participate in replacing Pyongyang's reactor system by safer and easier monitored light-water system.

Both leaders stressed the importance of transparency in North Korea's past nuclear activities as well as those of present and the future.

"I will refrain from any comments on assisting with the light- water system. We need to watch how North Korea-U.S. negotiations progress," Murayama said, "but in order for the international community to do anything at all, a conclusive resolution of the nuclear problem, including the past, must precede."

"It is our conformed policy that transparency of the past as well as the present and the future must be guaranteed," President Kim said, "on condition that it will promote reconciliation and cooperation between South and North Korea, that it will promote peace in Northeast Asia, our government is willing to help with the light-water reactor system."

Asked about Japanese compensation for Korean "comfort women" who were mobilized as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during World War II, the prime minister responded first with renewed apology of the Tokyo government.

"Next year is the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. I believe that the Japanese people must remind themselves anew the unbearable pain and sorrow inflicted on the Korean people by the Japanese colonial rule," said Murayama.

"We are studying how to sincerely express our apology and regrets," he said.

Kim and Murayama said they agreed that the new regime in North Korea should pursue openness and reform and become a member of the international community.

President Kim urged inter-Korean dialogue, saying he and his people believe "our problems should be handled by our own selves."

"We are waiting for North Korea's new regime to respond favorably on inter-Korean summit," President Kim said, "the most important thing is direct dialogue between those who have the authority."

President Speaks at News Conference

SK2307101694 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0749 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Introductory remarks by ROK President Kim Yong-sam at a joint news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama at the Sejong Hall of the Chongwadae presidential offices in Seoul—live]

[Text] Domestic and foreign press reporters: How are you? I am glad that Japanese Prime Minister Murayama visited our country despite his busy schedule following his assumption of office as prime minister, and I welcome him again.

The summit talks we had today were held in a very frank and friendly atmosphere. Prime Minister Murayama and I exchanged views extensively on the international situation, including the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia, and on the ways to promote relations between the ROK and Japan. Prime Minister Murayama and I agreed that the recent change in the North Korean situation ought to progress in such a way as to contribute to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

Prime Minister Murayama and I also agreed that the ROK and Japan will make active efforts so that North Korea may become a responsible member of the international community through openness and reform as soon as possible.

I explained to Prime Minister Murayama our efforts for the improvement of North-South relations, including the resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue. Prime Minister Murayama hoped that the North Korean nuclear issue will be resolved at an early date through the U.S.-North Korean talks and inter-Korean dialogue.

The two of us agreed that the ROK and Japan will continue to cooperate closely with countries such as the United States, China, and Russia in order to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue.

The two of us confirmed that the Japanese Government's position on the issue of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea remains unchanged.

The two of us agreed in the talks that relations between the ROK and Japan must develop into true partnership relations leading to the stability and prosperity not only in Northeast Asia but the Asia-Pacific region, as well.

To this end, our two countries agreed to make joint efforts to diversify and strengthen the relationship of exchange and cooperation.

Prime Minister Murayama made clear his determination to make efforts for world peace, while reflecting on the fact that Japan inflicted a great deal of ordeals and suffering on the Korean peninsula in the past.

I reaffirmed the fact that the past should no longer be a stumbling block to the development of relations between the two countries.

We agreed that in the future, both the ROK and Japan shall more firmly solidify the comprehensive relationship of partnership by consolidating mutual understanding and trust between the two countries' citizens on the basis of a correct perception of history.

In particular, I am glad to see that in today's talks, the ROK and Japanese Governments agreed to map out a basic plan at an early date—with consultations with the Russian Government—to solve the issue of the Korean residents in Sakhalin.

Prime Minister Murayama and I regarded as very encouraging the economic cooperation between two countries' citizens, as well as between the two countries' governments, which has been proceeding briskly recently.

We agreed that our two countries shall join efforts so that the economic relationship between the ROK and Japan can turn into a balanced, complementary relationship through a successful management of the ROK-Japanese New Economic Cooperation Organization inaugurated this spring.

We shared also the view that diverse exchanges should be conducted briskly for the cause of a bright future in relations between the ROK and Japan.

To this end, we agreed, in particular, to expand, on a continued basis, the exchange between youths who will shoulder the future of the two countries.

I believe that Prime Minister Murayama's visit to the ROK this time served as an important momentum to reaffirm the close cooperation for the cause of strengthening the joint efforts of the ROK and Japan for the peace and prosperity of Northeast Asia, and of consolidating the comprehensive relationship of partnership between the ROK and Japan under the rapidly changing world situation.

Thank you.

Murayama Departs Seoul 24 Jul

SK2407015394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0138 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 24 (YONHAP)—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam and Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama had a breakfast meeting at Chongwadae [presidential offices] on Sunday to reaffirm partner relations of the two countries.

South Korean first lady Son Myong-sun and Japanese Prime Minister's daughter Nakahara accompanied the meeting which lasted for about 70 minutes from 7:30 A.M. [2200 GMT 23 July].

Kim and Murayama reconfirmed that bilateral cooperation between their two nations is important and decided to closely consult with each other on pending issues over telephone whenever necessary.

After the meeting Kim said, "We talked to each other and agreed to promote friendship as well as strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries."

Murayama said, "I am satisfied with my visit to South Korea and I was deeply impressed by this country."

Murayama, also chairman of the Japanese Social Democratic Party, left Seoul at 10 A.M. from Seoul Airport, winding up his two-day visit.

Meanwhile, South Korea and Japan reaffirmed at a summit Saturday their alliance in dealing with the North Korean nuclear problem and continued efforts to heal the wounds from unhappy past between the two countries.

The prime minister apologized for the atrocities during the 1910-1945 colonial rule over Korea, saying that "Japan rues its past."

Murayama Telephones, Thanks Kim

SK2507115394 Seoul YONHAP in English 1133 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 25 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam agreed with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Monday [25 July] afternoon that Murayama's recent visit to Seoul contributed much to further promoting bilateral relations.

In a telephone conversation, Premier Murayama thanked President Kim for the hospitality given him and his party during his weekend visit to Seoul.

The telephone talks were made from 5 P.m. Monday. The call was made first by the Japanese prime minister.

President Kim said that the Japanese prime minister's visit was significant especially in that it served to strengthen cooperative system between the two neighboring countries in the wake of the death of Kim Il-song, according to Chongwadae [presidential offices] spokesman Chu Ton-sik.

Minister Han Leaves for ASEAN Meetings

SK2307124794 Seoul YONHAP in English 1233 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 23 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu left for Bangkok Saturday evening to attend ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) regional forum and post-ministerial conferences opening Monday.

In the ASEAN regional forum conference, Han will declare the concept of a multilateral security dialogue in East Asia, discuss the Korean and Northeastern situations after North Korean leader Kim Il-song's death and stress the need for close cooperation of Asia- Pacific nations in the solution of the North Korean nuclear issue.

In the ASEAN post-ministerial meeting, he will discuss improving South Korea-ASEAN economic cooperation. During the meeting, he will have separate talks with 10 foreign ministers attending the meeting, including Chinese and Russian Foreign Ministers Qian Qichen and Andrey Kozyrev.

Hyundai Labor, Management Seek 'Breakthrough'

SK2507064494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0626 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Ulsan, South Korea, July 25 (YONHAP)—Amid mounting tension following the failure of marathon collective bargaining Saturday and Sunday [23 and 24 July], labor and management at Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. (HHI) are at pains to find a breakthrough in the stalemate.

On Monday, each side blamed the other for breaking off the negotiations at their respective press conferences, while leaving the door open to resume the discussion.

Union leader Yi Yong-gap charged that management should bear the responsibility for scuttling the negotiations. Nevertheless, "the union will continue the struggle but if management asks to resume the talks with a dramatic new offer, we'll meet them."

The unionists' occupation of a liquefied natural gas carrier under construction, a goliath crane and other equipment for staging sit-ins continued for the sixth straight day Monday, and some 10,000 union members held a protest rally at the company's sports ground that morning.

Management, for its part, accused the union of sabotaging the collective bargaining. "While discussing the pending issues on the agenda, the union suddenly demanded that the company reinstate dismissed workers, which has nothing to do with the agenda," a company spokesman told reporters after a staff meeting.

"This indicates that they basically don't want to continue negotiations... We'll stick to the principle of 'no work, no pay,' take legal action against union leaders for violations of the related labor law, and keep the lockout intact until the dispute is settled."

In related developments, the unions of two Hyundai group firms—Hyundai Precision and Industry and Korea Flange—here which started disputes on July 4 and 20, respectively, reduced their stoppage time from eight hours last week to four hours Monday, while continuing to negotiate with management.

Unionists of Hyundai Mipo Dockyard, who decided on a dispute last Friday, maintained normal operations as collective bargaining went on, while most unionists of Hyundai Pipe reported to their workplaces to see how the collective bargaining is proceeding even though they are on summer vacation until Aug. 5.

Seoul 'To Crack Down' on Leftist Students

SK2507111294 Seoul YONHAP in English 1036 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 25 (YONHAP)—The government has decided to crack down rigidly on leftist students and their backstage string- pullers.

Justice Minister Kim Tu-hui said on Monday [25 July] his office will see to it that those already arrested or to be arrested for leftist activities would be given heavy prison terms so that they would be insulated from the society for long periods of time.

Those who pull strings behind the radical activities of leftist student activists will also be thoroughly ferreted out for rigid punishment, Kim said.

In addition, he said, those convicted leftist prisoners who show no repentance will be excluded from any amnesty, restoration of civil rights or bail.

Speaking at a cabinet session, Minister Kim said that a distorted campus culture in which some radical revolutionary forces have control of the overall campus atmosphere, works against the normal operation of campuses.

To cope with left campus forces, he said, a cooperative investigation mechanism would be formed among the prosecution, the Agency for National Security Planning and police.

Minister Kim said that since the death of North Korea's Kim Il- song, wall posters and printed matters expressing condolences over Kim's death were found at about 50 campuses across the country.

He said that of the total 131 four-year college student council presidents elected this year, 86 are of leftist inclination.

Those students who have been either arrested or serving prison terms for their leftist activities so far number 57 including Kim Chae-yong, first-term president of Hanchongnyon or the Korean Federation of General Student Councils, the Minister said.

Burma

Troops Reportedly Attack Mon Refugee Camp

BK2207062594 Oslo Democratic Voice of Burma in Burmese 1430 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Dear Listeners: It has been learned from eyewitnesses along the Thai-Burmese border that SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] troops entered and cleared a Mon refugee camp south of Three Pagoda Pass inside Burma early on the morning of 21 July. At about 0730, 200 soldiers believed to be from the 62d Light Infantry Division entered (Zaw Thun Kret) Camp in the (Khalauk Khani) area without warning. Reports say that when they saw the gun-wielding soldiers, the refugees fled deep into the jungle, leaving their belongings behind. Refugees from other camps in the area also fled into the jungle for fear of being attacked by the soldiers. There has been no clarification on this matter from the SLORC so far. There have also been no reports on casualties or whether there are any refugees left in the camp.

The largest Mon refugee camp is located in the (Khalauk Khani) area. About 6,000-7,000 Mon refugees are scattered in this area. According to a New Mon State Party [NMSP] report, NMSP troops clashed with the soldiers as they were leaving the (Zaw Thun Kret) Camp and heading for the (Khalaunk Khani) Camp, which is 1 kilometer away. The report says the NMSP is still investigating the details of the clash.

Capture of Khun Sa's Camps Reported

BK2307085494 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF BURMA in English 14 Jul 94 p 12

[Text] Khun Sit Hsan Kya, who led a notorious Loimaw drug traffickers group which brutally murdered innocent villager near Meipan Creek in Mong Hsat Township on 20 March 1993 died in a battle with Tatmadaw [Defense Services] columns under the Eastern Command.

The Tatmadaw columns launched an assault on Loimaw drug traffickers who were active after taking foothold in Loihan Kaungmu region, north-west of Tachilek Township, from 20 May to 12 July and captured all enemies' camps.

The enemy suffered heavy casualties in the battles and fled the region in disarray and over 80 of them who were wounded in the battles are being treated in a hospital in Maheintet near the Thai-Myanmar [Burmese] border.

Bangladesh Sends Back 152 Rohingyas

BK2307084994 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF BURMA in English 14 Jul 94 p 6

[Text] Bangladesh delegation handed 153 persons of 32 households, who illegally left for Bangladesh, back at our Kanyinchaung Camp in Rakhine State on 11 July under an agreement between the two countries.

The handover brought 56,114, the number of persons who have returned to this side since 22 September, 1992.

More on Refugees

BK2307085794 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF BURMA in English 15 Jul 94 p 6

[Text] A Bangladesh delegation handed 166 person of 36 households, who had illegally left for Bangladesh, back at our Kanyinchaung Camp in Rakhine State on 12 July under an agreement between the two countries.

The hand over brought 56,280, the number of persons who have returned to this side since 22 September, 1992.

Additional Reportage

BK2407083794 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF BURMA in English 16 Jul 94 p 7

[Text] Altogether 132 persons of 34 households, returned to Kanyinchaung Camp in Rakhine State from Bangladesh yesterday [14 July] under a Myanmar [Burma]-Bangladesh agreement.

The returnees since 22 September 1992 total 56,562.

Company Signs Vessels Memorandum With PRC

BK2507071794 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0430 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] The Ministry of Transport's Inland Water Transport and the PRC's Yunnan Province Industrial Export and Import Corporation signed a memorandum of understanding to build vessels under a second phase expansion plan at a ceremony held yesterday morning at the Inland Water Transport Building on Pansodan Road.

The ceremony was attended by Lieutenant General Thein Win, minister of transport; Brigadier General Win Tin, minister of finance and revenue; U San Wai, deputy transport minister; U Hla Min, managing director of Inland Water Transport; responsible officials; Mr. (Jen Qu Xian), deputy director general of the Yunnan Province Industrial Export and Import Corporation and responsible officials; and invited guests.

The ceremony concluded after the memorandum of understanding on assistance to build vessels under a second phase expansion plan was signed by U Hla Min, managing director of Inland Water Transport and Mr. (Jen Qu Xian), deputy director general of the Yunnan Province Industrial Export and Import Corporation.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Commentary Views ARF Meeting

BK2407093494 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0810 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Much of the world's attention is currently focussed on the Thai capital of Bangkok where ASEAN foreign ministers have been holding their annual ministerial meeting, AMM, over the past two days.

Any formal gathering of ASEAN leaders draws the notice and interest of the rest of the world, especially the developed nations. Their curiosity is not without cause, as ASEAN has become a potent force and a viable economic entity created through the pragmatic and far-sighted policies of the member countries' respective government. Sometimes fears have been expressed that ASEAN is moving in the direction of establishing a military or security pact. This is a false assumption.

As the ASEAN secretary general has pointed out, the organization's objective is to seek political and security cooperation. Their meetings are aimed at lessening tension and problems in the area, and resolving issues peacefully through negotiations. The AMM is to be followed by the customary post ministerial conference, or PMC, with ASEAN's seven dialogue partners. But even more significant, though less formal, will be the inaugural meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum or ARF which was launched at the 26th AMM in Singapore last year.

The forum will have representatives from 18 countries, the ASEAN's six, the seven dialogue partners, and five with observer status at the PMC. The forum will have no structured agenda. It is meant to give the participants an opportunity to express their views on issues concerning the Asia-Pacific region. What will figure prominently will the matter of security. The forum will focus attention on the South China Sea with the disputed Spratly Islands taking up much of their discussions.

The peace and stability of the South China Sea is crucial to ASEAN and the region. The Spratlys are claimed wholly or partially by ASEAN members—Malaysia, Philippines, and Brunei—as well as China, Vietnam, and Taiwan. The principles on a Treaty of Cooperation are clearly spelled out in the ASEAN Declaration on the South China Sea which was signed in Manila in 1992. It urges all parties concerned to resolve the dispute without the use of force, to exercise restraint on their claims, and extend their cooperation in areas such as navigation, pollution control, antidrug, and piracy operations.

The Spratlys are known to have contained a wealth of minerals and other marine resources. The claimants to the islands naturally want to exploit them for their benefit. Some sort of arrangement arrived at in the spirit of genuine cooperation, and give and take attitude should be able to minimize the gravity of the issue to a great extent. An encouraging development has been the present stand of China which used to claim complete sovereignty of the Spratlys. Its deputy director general of information is quoted as saying that Beijing subscribes to the Manila Declaration, which it describes as a good method, which should be supported by all. The countries making overlapping claims can endeavor to draw up programs to jointly develop the areas of dispute.

The establishment of the Joint Development Authority between Malaysia and Thailand, a similar agreement reached between and Vietnam, an ongoing discussions between China and Vietnam are good examples that can be emulated to jointly develop resources in areas of overlapping claims.

The ASEAN Regional Forum will no doubt serve as a useful avenue for discussions and airing of views to pave the way to seek an end to the Spratlys dispute, and the establishment of peace and stability in the South China Sea, and the Asia Pacific in general.

Reportage on French Acceptance of Chakkrapong

France Agrees To Accept Prince

BK2307094094 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] France has agreed to receive Prince Chakkrapong. The minister of foreign affairs, Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi confirmed this in Bangkok today. He said the Cambodian Government wants Prince Chakkrapong to leave Malaysia as soon as possible. The French ambassador in Kuala Lumpur is making the necessary preparations to enable the prince to leave for Paris. Datuk Abdullah said this to newsmen after holding discussions with the Cambodian foreign minister, Prince Norodom Sirivut, in Bangkok.

Chakkrapong Welcome 'Anytime'

BK2507103894 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0904 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 25 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Cambodia's Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, who came to Malaysia on July 3 after an abortive coup in his country, is welcome to go to France anytime he likes, a spokesman of the French Embassy here said Monday.

However, there has been no contact between the prince and the embassy so far, he said.

France's decision to accept Chakkrapong was conveyed to Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in Bangkok two days ago by Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Prince Norodom Sirivut.

Ministry To Discuss Departure

BK2407134094 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Wisma Putra [Foreign Ministry] will hold a meeting with Prince Norodom Chakkrapong of Cambodia tomorrow on his eventual departure to France. The deputy foreign minister, Datuk Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan, said he and his officers from Wisma Putra will hold discussions with Chakkrapong on his departure to a third country, that is France.

Datuk Abdullah was speaking to reporters after attending a meeting with the people and FELDA [Federal Land Development Authority] settlers of Sungai Derang, near Tanjung Malim.

The deputy prime minister, Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim, was present at the meeting.

Datuk Abdullah Fadzil said that they would discuss the suitable date for Prince Chakkrapong to leave for France.

France has agreed to accept Prince Chakkrapong, who came to Malaysia on the third of this month after an aborted coup in Cambodia.

Foreign Minister Datuk Ahmad Badawi said in Bangkok yesterday that France had agreed to take in Chakkrapong and that he was informed of this by Cambodian co-Prime Minister Prince Norodom Sirivut.

Spanish Minister Meets Mahathir, Offers Training

BK2207111594 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Spain is offering military training, especially in ship commanding, for the Malaysian military staff to enhance military cooperation between both countries.

Spanish Defense Minister Julian Garcia Vargas said that Spain would like to share its experiences with Malaysia in military ship handling and would like to offer such training for the Malaysian military personnel. At present Spain is conducting a similar training for the Thai military personnel.

He told reporters this in Kuala Lumpur after calling on Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed. Vargas said during the 40-minute meeting, he discussed the development in Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Africa, and matters relating to economic and military relations between Malaysia and Spain.

Singapore

State Minister: Air Force To Upgrade Aircraft

BK2307101194 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] The Republic of Singapore Air Force is upgrading its F-5 fighter aircraft with state of the art technology. The upgrading includes a new weapons delivery and navigational system, and a new multi-mode radar.

The minister of state for defense, Rear Admiral Teo Chee Hean, announced this when he visited the 144th squadron at Paya Lebar Air Base today.

Cambodia

'Many' SRV Workers Deported From Thailand

BK2507012894 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 24 Jul 94 pp 1, 5

[Text] According to a customs officer at the Poipet border checkpoint, after the Poipet border checkpoint was again opened at the beginning of July, many Vietnamese workers holding Cambodian identity cards used the cards to enter Thailand and work as construction workers. This report was recently confirmed when Thai authorities deported people who had illegally entered Thailand to work.

The customs officer, who also took part in the reception of the illegal Cambodian workers, said: On 12 July, Thai authorities handed over to their Cambodian counterparts 376 Cambodians charged with illegally entering and working in Thailand. Of the 376 deportees, he added, only 10 were actually Cambodian. The rest were Vietnamese holding Cambodian identity cards issued by Cambodian authorities, and most of them were adults accompanied by other family members.

The report further said that some of the ID cards were issued by the Phnom Penh authorities, but most of them were issued by the Banteay Meanchey provincial authorities. The cost of the card issuance and the method used to procure the cards were not disclosed.

Along with this, some job brokers also rounded up people who wanted to work as construction workers in Thailand.

It was reported that some of those workers were swindled by Thai brokers because after they worked for one or two months and had not been paid, they were arrested and deported by Thai police.

The reason for those workers to go and work as construction workers for the Thais at the Poipet border area was that the job was highly paid—each worker received a daily pay of 200 baht [$8 U.S.]. However, no Thai workers were willing to work for that salary.

It was also reported that no authority provided assistance, shelter, or food to those deported workers who are found everywhere in Poipet township. This is the cause of widespread thievery and banditry, because many poor Vietnamese have come here.

Comments on General Involved in Failed Coup

BK2207154994 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 22 Jul 94 pp 1, 11

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] During a 20-minute break of the National Assembly's extraordinary session on 20 July General Tie Banh, co-minister of national defense, told reporters that "General Chay Sangyun, state secretary of the Cambodian National Defense Ministry who fled to seek refuge in Vietnam for involvement in the 2 July failed coup, has been back in Cambodia for a week already."

Tie Banh affirmed that "the National Defense Ministry still recognizes General Chay Sangyun as state secretary at the ministry because he does not have any problems that would cause him to lose this position and that the National Defense Ministry has not taken away his job."

Replying to the question of whether the government will punish Chay Sangyun or not, Tie Banh affirmed that "Yun [Chay Sangyun] is not guilty. We should understand the way he fled to Vietnam." In Tie Banh's view, Chay Sangyun had disclosed the secret of the coup leaders; therefore, he had to think about his personal security by fleeing to Vietnam first.

Tie Banh also affirmed that it is normal that in any counterattack a person who does not do anything will not achieve success. A person has to know something that leads him to the discovery of the story. Thus, we assigned him (Chay Sangyun) a job because he already had some leads.

Tie Banh further said that because the situation at that time was too open, Chay Sangyun had to flee first for his personal security.

Replying to the question of whether Chay Sangyun would be accused of complicity, Tie Banh said: "If he was an accomplice, that would be a different story. However, Chay Sangyun was only accepting a job assigned to him. He not only did not do the job but also provided a number of reports to the government to oppose those who planned the coup."

Concerning the detention of Generals Sin Song, Sin Sen, and Tes Chay, General Tie Banh affirmed that "these three officials are receiving the utmost care.

Do not worry about human rights. "The detention is to comply with various procedures and this is almost the end."

Reportage on Cabinet Meeting

Communique Issued

BK2307102794 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Jul 94

["Communique of the Government Spokesman Office, No 11"; issued in Phnom Penh; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On 21 July at 0830 the Council of Ministers held a meeting under the chairmanship of Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, to examine and discuss:

1. The work of the Economy and Finance Ministry, including the settlement of Cambodia's foreign debt and Cambodia's property abroad; the financial protocol for 1994 with the Republic of France; income and expenditure in the first semester and the budget target for the second half of 1994; and

2. The proposal to set up the Cambodia-China City in Kandal Province by the Foreign Construction Company of China's Metallurgical Industry (?TNCC).

After detailed discussion of the above issues, the meeting made the following decisions in principle:

A. The settlement of Cambodia's foreign aid and Cambodia's property abroad.

The royal government decided to set up a commission with members from the Ministries of Economy and Finance, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the National Bank, to study the foreign debt that is to be settled. This commission has to separate state and private debts, debts before and after 1975, and to set up some principles to be submitted to the royal government for adopting a resolution on a correct national policy. Among these principles is the royal government's stance considering the 1975 event as one that caused great destruction to Cambodia and the Cambodian people's property, and foreigners' property in Cambodia, due to the destruction by the genocidal regime of the Khmer Rouge, and not a nationalization policy. Therefore the royal government is not responsible for this political event and will not be responsible for settling claims.

B. The 1994 financial protocol with France.

The meeting agreed with the plan proposed by the Finance Ministry, except the point on (?bringing in) experts for the Department of Civil Aviation, and asked for the transfer of money in this point for the purchase of equipment and instruments for Pochentong airport in accordance with the list of the Department of Civil Aviation because the royal government is short of the above instruments.

C. The income and expenditure in the first semester and the budget target for the second half of 1994.

The meeting decided to set up an interministerial commission with members from the Ministries of Economy and Finance, Trade, and Agriculture, to study the establishment of a mechanism for stocking food supplies, setting up guidance on paddy price for the information of peasants to promote production.

On the same occasion, the royal government also decided to assign the Economy and Finance Ministry to study the reduction of taxes on a number of imported goods, which are goods on transit, and on some goods, such as all kinds of spare parts, radio sets, tape recorders, and television sets, which are goods making people's lives easy.

D. The request to establish the Cambodia-China City in Kandal Province by the Foreign Construction Company of China's Metallurgical Industry, which plans to invest about 2,000 millions U.S. dollars to build the Cambodia-China City on a 20 square kilometers area for 200,000 immigrants. The view of the Council of Ministers is that this issue is not an ordinary investment, but an issue that is related to the immigration policy of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Therefore the royal government cannot accept this proposal.

The Council of Ministers' meeting closed at 1900 with a spirit of unity and high responsibility.

PRC Plan

BK2507083094 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 25-26 Jul 94 pp 1, 2

[Text] The plan to set up Cambodia-China City (China Town) in Kandal province failed due to opposition by an overwhelming majority of cabinet members on 21 July at a meeting chaired by the two prime ministers.

The plan to set up the Cambodia-China City in Kandal province on an area of 20 square kilometers for 200,000 immigrants by the Foreign Construction Company of China's Metallurgical Industry (CNFC) with a capital of 2,000 millions dollars was rejected and pronounced unacceptable by the Cabinet. The Cabinet's view is that this is not an ordinary investment but an issue relating to the immigration policy of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Analysts say that this is a clear-sighted decision by the royal government, which foresees the interests of the people and the nation and the complex problems arising in the future. A high-ranking official of the Cabinet stressed that this dubious and worrisome project is unacceptable. It has been disclosed that this plan, submitted to the government for consideration, was the result of a planned contract between Kandal province and the Chinese side through a Chinese association. According to this project, Kandal province agrees to let Chinese live there for 70 years. It can be worked out that the population increase resulting from 200,000 people living there for 70 years could reach millions, during which time political and ethnic problems would arise in Cambodia.

So far the problem of Vietnamese settlers has not yet been resolved. If another problem is added, how can Cambodia, already weak, cope?

It was thought that Kandal provincial officials should not have bothered with such a project! There are many urgent problems to be solved. Why did the officials not do this for the local people?

The Cabinet has now rejected this. Those who have received commissions to follow up this issue will have to solve the problem themselves.

Customs Duty on Imported Rice Exempted

BK2407141894 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Excerpt] An announcement concerning the total exemption of customs duty on imported rice was reportedly made on the afternoon of 21 July. This move is to allow foreign rice to be imported in considerable quantities while Cambodia is facing a food shortage.

The exemption is endorsed by the two prime ministers, and its implementation, which lasts from 21 July to the end of this year, was announced by the Economy and Finance Ministry.

It is reported that in 1994 Cambodia is short of about 180,000 tonnes of rice. The price of rice on the market has also significantly increased by 33 percent, from 600 riels to 800 riels a kilogram. This has badly affected the people's daily living conditions. [passage omitted]

Indonesia

SRV's ASEAN Membership Viewed

BK2207130694 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 22 Jul 94

[From the press review]

[Text] KOMPAS says the ASEAN regional grouping is now facing an unusual situation, namely, the issue of increasing its membership. The status of Vietnam's membership will be discussed at an ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting scheduled for today in Bangkok. The increase in membership is expected to make ASEAN stronger, but more importantly, the inclusion of Vietnam will strengthen the solidarity of the Southeast Asian community, which has a population of 435 million.

SUARA KARYA says Vietnam has shown its desire to become an ASEAN member since 1992 when that country signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation drafted by ASEAN at its second summit meeting in Bali in 1976. At the 27th ASEAN ministerial meeting in Bangkok, it is only a matter of procedure and timing when Vietnam will become the seventh member of ASEAN.

Army's 'Manhunt' for Dili Demonstrators

LD2407204494 Lisbon RTP Internacional Television in Portuguese 1800 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Quotation marks denote recorded passages]

[Text] The Indonesian army is carrying a veritable manhunt to arrest those responsible for the latest demonstrations in Dili. According to resistance sources, two students were detained and tortured in public. Another three youths disappeared without a trace. The resistance fears for the life of the students.

[Correspondent Isabel Magalhaes] The Indonesian riot police are going from house to house searching for members of the resistance. Mateus Afonso admitted organizing the demonstrations in Dili. He and a colleague were immediately detained and bludgeoned in public.

[Domingos Oliveira, captioned as secretary general of Timorese Democratic Union, in Sydney, Australia] "Mateus Afonso and his colleague were bludgeoned the day before yesterday, or yesterday at about 1000 [as heard]. The torture was carried out before Timorese eyewitnesses who did not want to give their names for safety reasons. The torture lasted about three hours."

[Magalhaes] Resistance sources say that another three students were detained on Friday night, apparently because they talked to foreign journalists. The police picked them up at home and their families have not heard from them since. According to the resistance, seven of the eight students admitted to hospital after the clashes at the university have been discharged. But no one knows what happened to the eighth student, and the resistance fears that he was transfered or killed. Leaders of the Timorese Democratic Union say that the situation in Dili is very tense. The students fear for their lives and the union is asking for international help.

[Domingos Oliveira] "I am appealing to the Portuguese president, Dr Mario Soares, to the Portuguese Government, the United Nations, Amnesty International, and all organizations to take effective measures to prevent Indonesia from continuing to kill, massacre and kill, the Timorese people."

Portuguese President 'Incensed' at Recent Events

LD2407202994 Lisbon Radio Renascenca in Portuguese to Europe 1700 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Excerpt] [Portuguese President] Mario Soares has reacted to the recent events in Dili. The case of the torture of two Timorese university students has incensed the president. Informed of everything that is happening, Mario Soares said he had not yet received the letter sent to him by the secretary-general of the Timorese Democratic Union. Marcio Candoso reports.

[Begin recording] [Candoso] The Timorese Democratic Union has appealed to the Portuguese president to act immediately to ensure that nothing happens to the two students detained and allegedly tortured this week in Dili. Soares has not yet received the appeal but is aware of everything that is happening. Despite being incensed by the latest events in Timor, the president told us today in Oporto that nothing else can be expected from a dictatorship such as the one in Indonesia.

[Soares] No, I have not received the letter, I have already been asked that. But I am aware of everything that has been happening. I am incensed, once again. But it is what you can expect from a dictatorship, precisely that. It is a regime of terror and oppression which is increasingly being felt but is also being denounced more and more often by everyone with a conscience throughout the world. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Suharto Meets South Korean Trade Minister

BK2207045094 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Indonesia is the largest supplier of LNG [liquefied natural gas], oil, and coal to South Korea. Speaking to reporters after he paid a courtesy call on President Suharto in Jakarta this morning, Kim Chol-su, South Korean minister of trade and industry, said South Korea had imported 100,000 barrels of oil daily in 1993. During the courtesy call, the South Korean minister was accompanied by Mining and Energy Minister Ida Bagus Sujana.

The South Korean minister said the two countries have several joint venture projects in mining and energy, including South Korea's gas exploration project in East Java, which is now supplying 12.3 million cubic feet of gas to the Gresik power plant. Kim Chol-su added that Indonesia is South Korea's fourth largest trading partner, with the volume of bilateral trade standing at U.S. $3.7 billion. The South Korean minister is visiting Jakarta for talks on energy cooperation with Indonesia.

Armed Forces Urged To Reduce Role in Politics

BK2207133594 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 21 Jul 94 p 2

[By Simon Sinaga]

[Text] Jakarta—President Suharto yesterday urged Indonesia's powerful military to stay away from the affairs of other government institutions, and step up its efforts to prevent crime.

In what analysts believe was his clearest message yet to the armed forces to reduce its roles in politics, Mr. Suharto said the military, or ABRI [Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia] as it is known, should focus on playing the role of a "stabiliser" and create an environment for the government to function in.

Speaking to the military top brass after their annual leadership meeting here, Mr. Suharto said:

"ABRI should not play its role by meddling with other institutions."

He said that as in the past the Indonesia Armed Forces should concentrate on maintaining "stability and dynamics" for the next quarter of a century.

"The mission can be carried out by continuously staying alert to the root causes of fluctuations and turbulence that had and might happen," Mr. Suharto said.

ABRI has long performed a dual function as a socio-political and defence force.

But its socio-political role has diminished in recent years.

Analysts say the president was sending a clear message to ABRI that it should reduce its involvement in Indonesian politics and this could contribute to growing unease within military ranks.

Said political analyst Daniel Dhakidae, who is also a senior researcher at the KOMPAS daily: "ABRI was told to cool itself and to stay calm in politics."

Mr. Dhakidae and other analysts also said that yesterday was the first time that Mr. Suharto was seen to be telling the military clearly not to meddle in the affairs of other government institutions.

The president's remarks also came in the wake of the sharp criticism over the controversial purchase of German naval vessels handled by Research and Technology Minister B.J. Habibie.

Analysts say the widely publicised purchase had caused unease among certain sections of the military .

Three leading weeklies—TEMPO, DETIK and EDITOR—which questioned the acquisition, were later ordered to close.

Mr. Suharto himself stepped forward to defend the purchase.

Mr. Dhakidae said that Mr. Suharto also indicated in his message to the top officers that he wanted armed forces officers to consult ABRI Commander General Feisal Tanjung, a close associate and supporter, before doing anything.

Mr. Suharto has extended the term of Gen. Feisal, who reached the mandatory retirement age of 55 on June 17.

In his remarks yesterday, the president urged ABRI to pay greater attention to crime.

"I ask for special attention to be given to crime tackling, both ordinary crimes and more organised crimes.

"Recent development in both crimes has aroused concern in the society."

Dailies View Changing Role of Armed Forces

BK2407134294 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 22 Jul 94

[From the press review]

[Text] PELITA underlines President Suharto's remarks on ABRI's [Indonesian Armed Forces] role as a stabilizing and dynamic force in national development. However, while carrying out its role, ABRI should not interfere in the affairs of the executive branch both in the central and regional levels. PELITA describes the head of state's remarks as very important in view of the fact that ABRI's role has often been misinterpreted, resulting in misleading views on the existence of ABRI.

POS KOTA says ABRI's sociopolitical role is still needed, but it must be adjusted to the changing times. ABRI's dual function concept must be adjusted to the needs and concrete condition of the nation and country in the coming 25-year period. POS KOTA also welcomes the remarks made by President Suharto when he met participants of an ABRI leadership meeting in Jakarta on Wednesday. This daily describes the remarks as a breath of fresh air aimed at boosting ABRI's civilian role in national development and continued support for it as a stabilizing and dynamic force.

ANGKATAN BERSENJATA says as a stabilizing and dynamic force, ABRI must continue to make efforts to maintain national stability. As the people's army and fighting soldiers, ABRI should continue to extend its support to all national groups so as to achieve national objectives.

Commenting on the same topic, KOMPAS says the shift in ABRI's role and position is proof of its success in carrying out its dual role, which is in turn evidence of the success of national development. However, this does not mean that ABRI will stop meddling in social-political affairs because it will continue to be asked to create an atmosphere conducive to the smooth operations of the executive branch at the central and regional levels. As stressed by the head of state, ABRI should be vigilant against the source of past and future upheavals. It should also work together with other government agencies.

Official: ROK To Increase Import of Gas

BK2307085294 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] South Korea will increase its import of LNG [liquefied natural gas] from Indonesia for medium and long term. South Korea will buy a total of 6 million tonnes of LNG up to 1999 and after that, a total of 4.3 million tonnes up to 2014. Speaking to reporters after attending the 15th meeting of Indonesia-South Korea Commission for Energy and Mineral Resources Cooperation in Jakarta yesterday, Suyitno Patmosukismo, director general of oil and gas, said that Indonesian LNG has bright marketing prospects in South Korea because that country is one of the newly industrialized countries that needs a reasonably high supply of energy and also because Indonesian LNG has several outstanding qualities.

[Begin Patmosukismo recording] Indonesia is considered a reliable supplier of LNG, but South Korea obviously wants to diversify its LNG import by buying from other countries, too. Therefore, it also buys LNG from Malaysia. However, I do believe that South Korea will buy a lot from us, because we have good experience in LNG production. They also notice that we have supplied LNG to Japan for a long time, which means that we are a reliable supplier. [end recording]

Besides boosting its LNG import from Indonesia, South Korea also wants to increase its import of crude oil from Indonesia, which currently stands at 100,000 barrels per day.

Laos

Foreign Minister Leaves for ASEAN Meeting

BK2207035394 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Somsavat Lengsavat, foreign affairs minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], left Vientiane this morning for Bangkok to attend the 27th ASEAN ministerial conference which will be convened in Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand, from 22 to 25

July. During the conference, Somsavat Lengsavat will attend the opening ceremony of the bilateral meeting between the LPDR and ASEAN and participate in consultative discussions on regional problems regarding security and the building of mutual trust.

Seeing the foreign affairs minister off at Wattai Airport were Deputy Foreign Affairs Ministers Souban Salitthilat and Thongsavat Boupha; the Thai, Malaysian, and Indonesian ambassadors to Laos; and several high-ranking officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Inspection Board Delegation Leaves for PRC

BK2207131094 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Vientiane, July 22 (KPL)—Maichantan Sengmani, Politburo member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, president of the Central Inspection Board and head of the Anticorruption Committee, yesterday left here for an official goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China.

The visit was to share experience on the implementation of resolutions concerning the integrated rural development, especially in the special economic zone.

In addition, the central inspection chief and his party will learn about inspections within the Communist Party of China in political, social, economic and cultural areas. They will also learn about regulations concerning material management and investment and foreign relations management, and draw lessons on monitoring foreign residents who have invested and operated business in China.

Chinese Ambassador Li Jiazhong was among others present at the Wattai airport to see the delegation off.

Philippines

Solutions to Spratly Dispute To Be Pursued

BK2507113594 Manila PNA in English 0715 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] The Philippine Government will vigorously pursue peaceful and diplomatic solutions over the disputed Spratly chain of islands in the South China Sea.

Defense Secretary Renato S. De Villa Sunday cited the so-called Manila Declaration signed two years ago by the claimant countries.

De Villa said the Manila Declaration was a general agreement among Asia-Pacific countries laying claim to parts of the islands providing the solution over the dispute at the Spratly area will be done through peaceful process. [sentence as received]

"And at the moment, we do not see any sign of aggression from any direction, and we are not on any military alert level there," said the defense chief.

Aside from the Philippines, the other claimant countries which have sent a token military force to guard and protect their interest include Malaysia, Taiwan, People's Republic of China, Brunei, and Vietnam.

Instead of settling the dispute by confrontation, De Villa said, "I think we should invite other countries for scientific exploration and possible joint ventures in how best to utilize and exploit the natural and mineral resources for the benefit of all claimants."

He proposed the possible demilitarization of the area so that peaceful process of settling the dispute will be enhanced.

"On the islands occupied by the Philippines, there has been no move whatsoever by any country to dislodge us or to take over our claimed area, or claim our occupied islands," he added.

"So, I do not believe that this is, at the moment, a security threat," De Villa said.

AFP Admits Ownership of Abu Sayyaf Arms

BK2207134494 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 20 Jul 94 p 8

[By Sandra S. Aguinaldo]

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) admitted yesterday that some of the arms seized from the logistics officer of terrorist group Abu Sayyaf belonged to the military. However, they said the firearms may be those lost by government troops during combat and not spirited out of the organization's safe houses as alleged by the extremists.

At the same time, both the AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP) announced a nationwide physical and historical inventory of firearms and ammunition to check if some arms were slipped out of the AFP Logistics Command by some erring military personnel and sold to the Abu Sayyaf.

Defense Secretary Renato de Villa said many firearms have been missing from the AFP in the past years because of encounters with communist, Muslim, and military rebels, and not because they were being stolen from the military and supplied to the extremists.

AFP Vice Chief of Staff and Spokesperson Lt. Gen. Alfredo Filler said that at the height of communist rebellion in the 1980's, the military lost 3,000 firearms a year with more than 1,000 unaccounted for as a result of the series of coups launched against the Aquino Administration.

During an interview with reporters, Mr. Filler said the 13 armalite rifles (M16s) recovered from Hadji Muin Aminuddin, the Abu Sayyaf logistics officer arrested recently, can be traced to the military organization as indicated by their serial numbers. He added it cannot be established that they came from the logistics department.

Mr. Filler said the AFP will investigate to find out the last bearer of the identified firearms. He said penalties will be meted out if it is confirmed these last bearers sold the arms to lawless elements.

Brig. Gen. Joselin Nazareno of the AFP's Civil Military Operations also added the whole process will take a long time as the firearms could have been issued as far back as 1977 to 1981. But Mr. Filler vowed the AFP will not stop until those responsible have been punished. "We want to get them because it hurts us to know that some of our soldiers are being killed with our own arms," he said.

The AFP also clarified reports coming from the PNP that some ranking military officials were involved in selling high-powered firearms to the Abu Sayyaf, saying it cannot as yet be supported by facts. "It is a fact that the armed forces had lost firearms but we cannot say if there is a syndicated pilferage going on. Everything is being done to find out and punish the culprits," Mr. de Villa said.

Meanwhile, newly appointed Police Deputy Director for Operations Agerico Kagaoan said the Abu Sayyaf is merely using the issue as part of its propaganda campaign against the government. "It is a classic tactic and it is something that can be expected from the Abu Sayyaf. But it is impossible that some two or three military officers were able to arrange for the transport of the firearms to Mindanao. The task needed more than three men," he said.

Police Chief Recaredo Sarmiento said he has ordered an accounting of all police firearms in the country, particularly in PNP units in Mindanao. He also brushed aside the allegations of the Abu Sayyaf, saying transactions which involved pilferage and air transport of ammunition cannot have been done without being noticed by authorities.

The police and the military organizations are now working in investigating how the arms reached the hands of the Abu Sayyaf, he said.

Solution to Abu Sayyaf Problem Discussed

BK2507092694 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 21 Jul 94 pp 1, 11

[By Carolyn O. Arguillas]

[Text] Isabela, Basilan—Is the Abu Sayyaf really that strong to merit its tag as the No. 1 threat in Mindanao?

"The Abu Sayyaf is overpublished," said Nato Asmawil, a member of the provincial board and ex-member of the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF]. "(It's) not very strong. (Its members are) not more than 30."

The military's estimates vary from "seven in the inner core, 20 in the second layer, and 32 in the third layer in Basilan" to "30 regulars and 170 new recruits in Sulu."

If its membership is that small, is a myth being created around the Abu Sayyaf?

From a small, obscure Muslim fundamentalist group in 1992, the Abu Sayyaf (Bearers of the Sword) has, largely because of the military and the media, become larger than it actually is.

It is no longer described as "fundamentalist," but as "extremist" or "terrorist." It is thought to be responsible for bombings in Davao, General Santos, Zamboanga (and even Manila), and kidnappings in Basilan and elsewhere.

In the early 1970s, every conceivable terrorist act was blamed on the then monolithic MNLF, whose "threat" became one of President Ferdinand Marcos' excuses to declare martial law.

In the early '80s, the blame was laid on the then cohesive New People's Army and the MNLF "Lost Command."

Three years ago, it was "Kumander Mubarak" of Maguindanao.

Today, it is the Abu Sayyaf's turn.

Fr. Angel Calvo, a Spanish Claretian missionary based in Zamboanga City and who has spent 16 years in Basilan, told the INQUIRER that the Abu Sayyaf must be viewed on four levels:

—The person of Ustadz Abdurajik Abubakar Janjalani, his former student at Claret High School here;
—The fundamentalist movement that Janjalani set up in 1992;
—Abu Sayyaf as part of a worldwide phenomenon of Islamic fundamentalism; and,
—The myth around the Abu Sayyaf, of which, Calvo said, "there is a lot."

Calvo cited as example the military's blaming the Abu Sayyaf for all the bombings in Mindanao and Manila. "That is absolutely a myth," he said.

But he quickly added: "Who is creating the myth? Who is interested in expanding the myth?"

More important, who is benefiting from it?

"Is it the national government?" residents wonder.

The bishops, for their part, ask: "Is the military making Basilan a justification to seek a higher budget from Congress, or is it because some military officials with business interests here tolerate the trouble to ensure continued military presence and protection?"

Is it the "regime's hidden design to instill terror among the Moro people and spark another war reminiscent of the early '70s, if only to ensure continued economic exploitation and political oppression?" the National Democratic Front in Mindanao asks.

"Is it my political detractors?" Gov. Abdulgani "Gerry" Salapuddin wants to know.

"Is it Salapuddin?" his detractors ask.

"Is it the MNLF?" quite a number ask.

Or all of the above?

The MNLF says it has nothing to do with the Abu Sayyaf.

Last May, weeks before the military operations in Sulu began, MNLF Chair Nur Misuari left for Mecca. He is now in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Abou Amri Taddik told the INQUIRER in Sulu that Misuari, through an overseas phone call, said "the forces of the MNLF should not get involved in the ongoing operations."

He said Misuari "ordered his troops to move away from the area of operations" and that the military "has the right to go against criminals, as mandated in the joint MNLF-RP [Republic of the Philippines] cease-fire ground rules."

"If ever the Abu Sayyaf will seek sanctuary in (MNLF) territory, MNLF field commanders should object and oppose (it)," Taddik quoted Misuari as saying.

But residents here continue to wonder why, for all its claims that Sampinit is its territory, the MNLF has allowed the Abu Sayyaf to use the place as sanctuary, or as a "camp," or, as the military claims, as "the last stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf."

Ustadz Sharif Zain Jali, MNLF spokesperson, told INQUIRER correspondent Rolly San Juan in Zamboanga City on 8 July that the front will no longer allow military operations against the Abu Sayyaf in MNLF-held territories like Patikul in Sulu and Sampinit here.

"The military operations in (our) controlled territories will really affect ongoing peace talks between the Philippines and the MNLF," Jali said.

He said the MNLF would protest the "occupation" of Patikul and Sampinit by government troops.

But Misuari, contacted in Jeddah by the INQUIRER on 14 July, said: "I don't know anything about what is happening there."

That same day, the Joint Cease-fire Committee of the government and the MNLF agreed to allow the military to operate against the Abu Sayyaf in the "MNLF territories."

The MNLF also refuses to acknowledge the Lost Command as a part of it.

It says members of the Lost Command are former MNLF guerrillas who have turned to banditry.

The military says the same.

But residents here find it difficult to distinguish the Abu Sayyaf, the MNLF, and the Lost Command from one another.

Members of the three groups are apparently like chameleons.

They sum up their confusion thus: "The other day, this person was MNLF Lost Command. Yesterday he was MNLF regular. Today he is Abu Sayyaf."

The national government's response has been to deploy at least six battalions of soldiers in this tiny island province (the size of Bataan) of 250,000 predominantly Muslim residents and, of late, to mobilize all government agencies in undertaking development projects here.

Guns and funds, however, are not the answer.

Salapuddin said the "final and ultimate solution" to the crisis here is for the national government to settle peace negotiations with the MNLF, of which he was a commander from 1972 to 1984.

The governor said the groups often blamed for the spate of kidnappings and other illegal acts in Mindanao—the Abu Sayyaf, the MNLF Lost Command, and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (a Maguindanao-dominated faction which broke away from the MNLF after the Tripoli agreement of 1976) "originally came from the same tree, the MNLF."

If the "MNLF issue" is resolved, he said, all these groups will be a "thing of the past."

"Their reason for existence will not be there anymore," Salapuddin said. "But for as long as the MNLF issue is not resolved, these groups will have reasons to exist and operate and create problems for us, especially here in Mindanao."

Salapuddin said Abu Sayyaf's Janjalani was an MNLF recruit sent for training in Libya and Syria.

Pressed for comment, Misuari said: "I am not sure of that."

Salapuddin added that the Lost Command undertakes operations without the consent of its superior.

But "that does not mean they are not part of the (MNLF)," he said. "They are still part of the group, only they take things into their hands without the consent or official order of their senior officers. That is why their superiors can always wash their hands (of the issue) and say they are not one of us."

Misuari, however, said: "I do not know about the connection (between the MNLF and the Lost Command)."

Integrated Infrastructure Program Approved

BK2507052794 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 21 Jul 94 p B-1

[Text] The 1995 Integrated Infrastructure Program, which will cost P104.9 billion [Philippine pesos], was approved yesterday by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board chaired by President Ramos.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and NEDA Director General Cielito F. Habito said the program comprises three sets.

Set I covers infrastructure projects of government infrastructure agencies specifically the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC).

The total amount earmarked for Set I is P25.97 billion, P21.6 billion of which shall go to the DPWH while the remaining P4.37 billion to the DOTC.

Also, 49.41 percent of Set I, or P13.87 billion will be used for foreign-assisted projects (FAPs) and the remaining 50.6 percent or P14.2 billion is allocated for locally-funded projects.

On the regional breakdown of Set I, the National Capital Region (NCR) surprisingly did not get the biggest share of the program. The largest amount instead went to Region IV with P3.35 billion or 11.95 percent. This was followed by the NCR with P3.21 billion or 1.44 percent and Region VII with P2.88 billion or 10.26 percent.

Meanwhile, Set II of the 1995 Program is for infrastructure projects of non-infrastructure agencies such as the Department of Education Culture and Sports (DECS), Department of Health (DOH), and the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The funding share of this set totals P24.8 billion. Of this amount, 26.17 percent or around P6.5 billion will be for school building projects of the DECS, 14.32 percent or P3.55 billion for the health infrastructure-related projects of the DOH, and 11.65 percent or about P2.9 billion for agriculture-supportive projects of the DA.

Set III, on the other hand, includes the power, electrification, water supply, and port projects of major infrastructure corporations.

Thailand

Commentary on ASEAN Regional Forum

BK2407104894 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 24 Jul 94 p 22

[Commentary By Dr Chulachip Chinwanno: "Agenda for Asean Regional Forum"]

[Text] The emerging new world order; has opened up new possibilities for cooperation as well as new complexities in regional relationships. The diffusion of power has replaced the Cold War framework, and the rise of regional states' national interest and influence is an important factor in global and regional equations.

Bilateral military arrangements have been the pillars of regional security for decades. They remain an essential part of the regional security framework but there is now room for other multilateral relationships which can complement these bilateral pillars—multilateral security cooperation.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) was established in 1967 with the aim of promoting economic, social and cultural cooperation. The six Asean countries—Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines and Brunei (joined in 1982)—have been quite active in the development of a regional political framework on peaceful coexistence and peaceful settlement of conflicts.

The Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (Zopfan) was set up in 1971 and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in 1976. Throughout the 1980s Asean has set up a system of relationship with dialogue partners—the US, Canada, the European Community, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand—in the form of regular consultation.

The annual meetings of the Asean foreign ministers, the AMM (Asian ministerial meeting), followed by the Asean PMC (post-ministerial conference) with the dialogue partners have been institutionalised as effective for political and economic consultation. Moreover, Vietnam, Laos and Papua New Guinea have been invited to the AMM as observers. China and Russia have been invited to attend the opening session of the AMM as guests and have met Asean in separate consultative sessions since 1991.

At the Fourth Asean Summit in Singapore in 1992, it was decided that Asean could use established forums such as the PMC to promote external dialogue on enhancing security in the region. The Asean Regional Forum (ARF) was then initiated at the subsequent AMM meetings as a new structure for regionwide consultation on security, especially on security cooperation.

The first ARF meeting, to be held in Bangkok tomorrow, will be attended by the six Asean members, seven dialogue partners, three observers (Vietnam, Laos and Papua New Guinea), and two consultative partners (China and Russia).

This forum will offer a unique opportunity for a focused security dialogue among all the countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It will be a place to discuss issues before they turn into crises. Asean has made it known to all involved that this is a long-term process for reducing tension and not something geared toward the solution of any specific problems. The Asean formula of action by consensus will be applied to ARF as well.

Two broad subjects are planned for the first ARF meeting, one on the challenges and opportunities for collective security in the region and the other on the possible development of confidence building measures in the context of "preventive diplomacy".

However, it is also very important at the very first meeting of ARF to develop a set of basic principles or general framework to ensure a common understanding and approach to regional security cooperation. Security here should not be narrowly defined or seen only in the military terms. In fact the concept of security now should assume a more comprehensive multi-dimensional character.

In addition to the normal military dimension, the economic and social dimensions should also be included. Economic security essentially involves the maintenance of economic growth, open sea lanes of communication, access to capital, markets and resources, while the social concerns will include the migration, piracy as well as environmental problems. Here, priorities will have to be made by the forum.

Moreover, a common understanding on the principle of peaceful settlement of regional conflict must be emphasised. Conflict prevention principles and mechanism as stipulated in the 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia should also be applied to the whole Asia-Pacific region. Principles of the Asean Declaration on the South China Sea in 1992 should also be subscribed by all participants of the ARF.

In addition, "preventive diplomacy" as proposed by UN secretary general Butros Butros-Ghali in his Agenda for Peace should be adopted by the ARF as a major mechanism for regional conflict management. Preventive diplomacy is defined here as an action to prevent disputes from arising between parties, to prevent existing disputes from escalating into conflicts and to limit the spread of conflicts when they occur.

There are many components in the preventive diplomacy approach, including confidence-building measures, fact-finding, early warning and preventive deployment of UN forces. The Asean Secretariat in Jakarta may cooperate with academic institutes in the region to carry out fact finding or set up an early warning system through annual assessment of the strategic environment in the region as well as evaluate the potential hot spots.

As far as the confidence-building measures are concerned, there are many proposals floating around. Let me suggest a few more:

1. More multilateral exchanges of defence establishments in the Asia-Pacific region. There should be more and regular meetings of defence ministers or chiefs of staff and strategic planners of all countries in the regions on a multilateral basis. This is not a regional alliance but it can multilateralise ongoing bilateral meetings to enhance understanding in security cooperation.

2. Establishment of a Regional Arms Registration Office. This is to regionalise the UN-sponsored Arms Registration Centre by setting an Asia-Pacific Arms Registration Office within the Asean Secretariat so as to keep records of any arms procurements or upgrading to avoid misunderstanding and enhance transparency. It is also suggested that the registration should be done at the other side, the countries who sell or export the arms.

3. Exchange of military information and thinking on a multilateral basis. Each country's defence establishments should publish regularly reports on their defence posture and military budgets and spending in the form of the White Paper.

4. Joint military exercises with open observation. Whenever any two or more countries in the region conduct joint military exercises, other neighbouring countries will be invited to observe freely.

These and other measures and mechanisms for cooperative security should be initiated for discussion at the first ARF meeting and probably agreed on at the subsequent meetings next year and implemented throughout the Asia-Pacific region by 1996. Some kind of understanding has to be made with the military on the transparency and virtue of the above measures.

Moreover, a new regional attitude must be developed toward security under which the resort to the use of force as a means of resolving disputes is regarded as impossible. Intimately associated with the development of this attitude is the evolution of a habit of ongoing dialogue in the region over both day-to-day relations and special issues of concern. In addition, a series of mechanism to ensure the continuation and enhancement of both the attitude and the dialogue must also be promoted.

These are a lot of things to ask of the first meeting of a regional security structure, the ARF. It is likely that those participating in this meeting may touch upon the areas of conflict such as the South China Sea and the Korean Peninsula only lightly. However, they should set up some working group to report on the situation and recommendations to be discussed at the subsequent meeting.

If the first meeting can come up with a declaration on principles on preventive diplomacy and the commitment not to use force in any disputes, the Asean Regional Forum can be declared a success.

Nation Urged To Play Leading Role

BK2207151494 Bangkok KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT in Thai 22 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Maintain Thailand's Leading Role in Regional Politics"]

[Text] We welcome the annual meeting of the ASEAN foreign ministers scheduled to open on 22 July. It is a great honor for Thailand to have a chance to host the 27th annual ASEAN meeting and another level of the meeting of the 10 Southeast Asian countries—the six

ASEAN member countries and four non-ASEAN countries namely Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Burma. This is a step toward the establishment of the Southeast Asian community since ASEAN is only a grouping of the countries in the region which are under democratic rule.

Despite the great significance attached to the ASEAN gathering, several actions taken by the Thai Government recently have caused suspicion in the international community over the sincerity of its words and deeds in dealing with the issue of human rights. The present Thai Government was earlier praised for granting entry visas to Tibetian spiritual leader Dalai Lama and other Nobel Peace Prize laureates to come here to campaign for the release of Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who was put under house arrest by the Burmese junta five years ago. The Thai Government, as an elected government, at that time might have wanted to show off its appreciation of human rights to impress foreign countries and to prove that it has a clear policy toward the violation of human rights in the neighboring country.

The explicit attempt made by the government to prevent the Thai and foreign nongovernmental organizations from organizing a seminar on the violation of human rights in East Timor was deplorable. We are very disappointed with those leaders in the government, including the prime minister and foreign minister as well as commanders of the armed forces. The controversy, however, was later settled. They cited misunderstanding as the cause of the problem. They were so careless not to examine all related information before commenting on the international issue.

We are worried that the problem, which was attributed to misunderstanding, might lead to more problems. It is Thailand's turn to host this year's ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting, which will coincide with the meeting of foreign ministers from 10 Southeast Asian countries. Meanwhile, foreign ministers or leaders of other countries like the United States, China, Japan, and Russia will also be here. This is a historical event of international politics in which Thailand can play a leading role.

We believe that the most important consequence of the meeting is that foreign countries will recognize Thailand's leading role in the ASEAN region and Indochina since it can act as a coordinator for countries in this region to bargain with other groupings of countries like the European union and South Asian alliance. This will turn the Southeast Asian region into a nice society with economic prosperity and one free from danger of war while human rights violations either in Thailand and neighboring countries, like Burma and Vietnam, is kept at minimum level.

Although Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri is playing a more prominent role than Prime Minister Chuan Likphai in organizing the meeting of the foreign ministers from 10 Southeast Asian nations, that is not important because both the prime minister and foreign minister are political appointees. They come and they go. But the status of Thailand as a country playing a leading role in regional political, social, cultural, and economic arena will be passed over to younger generations. Thailand must be the leading country in this region.

Prospects of Unity

BK2407104494 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 24 Jul 94 p A6

[Editorial: "Which Way Will Asean Go?"]

[Text] The nations of Southeast Asia are trying to follow the example of Western Europe by gradually moving toward greater economic union, but it is a difficult process. A major concern among skeptics in the richer European nations is that their environmental and social welfare standards—considered by some to be an economic liability—would be "dragged down" to match those of their poorer neighbours.

So far, that hasn't happened in Europe. Rather, social and environmental standards in the poorer countries have generally risen to match those in more advanced countries. Analysts credit this move to the leadership of Germany, which seems determined to protect its social market economy and its progressive green regulations.

Asean leaders have often held up the European Union as a model for our own attempts at an Asean free trade zone. The regions are similar in size and population, they note, so there is no reason why Southeast Asia shouldn't one day match Western Europe in terms of wealth and power.

Place on the world stage

Our leaders see the creation of a common Asean market as a prerequisite for taking our proper place on the world stage. But achieving this dream will require standardizing regulations, which in turn will entail hard-fought negotiations.

A simple example would be the pollution emission standard for cars. Will, say, Thailand be allowed sell its relatively dirty pick-up trucks in clean Singapore? Or will Thailand have to raise its emission standards before it can do so? Will the cleaner standards in the richer Asean countries be seen as impediments to trade?

Standardizing labour standards is an even trickier question. Should medical benefits and safety conditions be standardized as a prerequisite to joining a free trade zone? These are the kinds of issues which all trade agreements—whether in Europe, North America, Southeast Asia or around the world for members of the Gatt—have to face.

Which way will Asean go? That remains to be seen. Because so far our eyes have only been on the prize of greater wealth and power. These other issues have been little more than an afterthought. Asean environment ministers have only just began negotiating common standards. Suffering as we already are from high levels of pollution, we should follow Europe's lead and keep standards as high as possible. There is also an economic incentive to do this: it will allow us to compete in global markets.

Still, we should all be wary because Southeast Asia will face more difficulties uniting than Europe does.

While Europe did have to overcome animosities arising from a long history of intracontinental warfare, it has certain advantages in trying to unite. All the member states of the EU are predominantly Christian—although there are of course many schisms in that church—and all of them can be considered democracies.

By comparison, Southeast Asia is more ethnically and politically diverse. Three of the world's major religions—Islam, Christianity and Buddhism—are represented, along with sizable minorities of Hindus and animists. And political forms run the gamut from fledgling democracies to authoritarian dictatorships.

What's more, the largest country in Asean, Indonesia, is also the poorest and the least progressive—a stark contrast to Germany's role in Europe.

In short, with democratic freedoms in most of Southeast Asia still only tenuously maintained, the attempt to unite the region could well undermine these freedoms, rather than strengthening them. That is the danger we face.

Human Rights

Ominously, the first signs of political "standardization" have not boded well. Faced with threats by Indonesia, the governments of both Thailand and the Philippines quickly abandoned their democratic principles by attempting to block meetings of human rights NGOs which had intended to raise controversial issues relating to the political situation in East Timor and Burma, among other subjects.

Filipino dignity was saved by the intervention of the Supreme Court, which ruled that its meeting could go on. Thailand apparently has fewer such checks and balances. With our government also eager to do business with the thugs ruling Burma, the NGO meeting here had to be held without the attendance of many foreign participants who faced intimidation by the police.

Creating a stronger Asean community is still a worthy goal. Despite all the differences among us, the peoples of Southeast Asia also have many things in common: a common history, common security concerns and, most importantly, common aspirations. These include not just greater wealth and power but also a better quality of life and more freedom.

With prosperity must come progress. Governments which ignore this do so at their own peril.

Double Standards

BK2507110594 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Jul 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Timor: ASEAN's Shame of Silence"]

[Text] In the almost 19 years since Indonesia's invasion and illegal annexation of East Timor, ASEAN leaders have uttered virtually no voice of protest. Instead they have completely turned their backs on the country and its people. The simple reason appears to be that they have not wanted to offend or embarrass Indonesia, a powerful ASEAN partner; such a move might jeopardize their highly touted ASEAN solidarity. But with what hypocrisy, one year after the invasion, did the ASEAN five, including Indonesia, propound the concept of a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (Zopfan) and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation.

It has been claimed by Timorese exiles and human rights groups that as many as 200,000 Timorese died in the first five years after the invasion. Although independent verification of the claim has been hard to come by because little of what actually happened in East Timor has been made known to the outside world, there seems to be small doubt that repression and human rights violations against Timorese dissidents have been going on unabated. A blazon example was the killing of dozens of civilians, a total of 271 according to the report of the National Council of Maubere Resistance, an umbrella organization of Timorese resistance groups, in the Timorese capital of Dili on November 12, 1991.

ASEAN's total silence on a crime against humanity of such magnitude raised a disturbing question mark about the group's conscience, moral justification and collective attitude towards aggression committed by one big country against a small and defenseless neighboring nation.

When Vietnamese forces invaded Cambodia in 1978, ASEAN emerged as a single collective voice, crying the loudest against the aggression and subsequent illegal occupation of Cambodia. Throughout subsequent years, the organization played a pivotal role in applying pressure, arranging countless meetings and coordinating efforts to find a negotiated settlement to the conflict. Ironically, Jakarta at times served as interlocutor of the peace talks.

Strangely, the collective political will and moral responsibility manifested over the Cambodian issue has been totally absent so far as the East Timor problem is concerned. ASEAN appears to have displayed double standards when it came to the question of aggression and East Timor.

ASEAN leaders today may pretend that East Timor is already a dead issue. They may also pretend not to hear the cries for freedom of the East Timorese and ignore their misery and suffering at the hands of the Indonesian military machine. They may also succeed in muzzling the faint voices of the Timorese dissidents who have been trying to awaken the world conscience.

But they cannot escape the sense of guilt which will forever leave a scar in their hearts and minds. The howls of the dead and the cries of the oppressed will continue to haunt them until the day when freedom and independence are restored in East Timor for the Timorese.

East Timor is a test of will between the forces of democracy and dictatorship and between the forces of right and wrong. The comprehensive peace plan proposed by Timorese leader Jose Ramos-Horta offers a path in the right direction which would also free ASEAN from its own prison of conscience.

ASEAN, and Indonesia in particular, can help spare further unnecessary death and misery in East Timor. By simply extending its hand to accept the olive branch, ASEAN can also save itself from further embarrassment and shame for remaining silent and unwitting partner in crimes against Timorese.

Interior Minister Says No Timorese Arrested

BK2207150194 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Interior Minister General Chawalit Yongchaiyut said he had not received any report on speakers at the seminar on human rights in East Timor organized by a private organization saying anything against the neighboring country.

He also denied the report on the arrest and deportation of East Timorese who are here to attend the seminar.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] They have not yet been arrested?

[Chawalit] How could we arrest them? If they do that we will have to talk to them first. If they really misbehave, we will revoke their visas. [end recording]

E. Timor Chief Proposes Talks With Jakarta

BK2307113994 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Jul 94 p 2

[Text] East Timorese exiled leader Jose Ramos-Horta proposed a comprehensive peace plan yesterday aimed at ending the East Timor conflict with Indonesia since 1974.

"Our imprisoned leader, Xanana Gusmao, has proposed and reiterated time and again our very basic stand. We remain ready to enter a dialogue with the Indonesian authorities, under the auspices of the United Nations without pre-conditions, to explore all possible ideas towards a comprehensive settlement of the conflict," said Mr Ramos-Horta in an address to the Southeast Asia Forum on Human Rights and Development at an emergency home in Don Muang.

Mr Ramos-Horta and a colleague managed to slip by Thai immigration police and attend the regional seminar on human rights which focuses on the East Timor and Burma issues.

He said the three-phase peace plan comprised of:

Phase One—Humanitarian phase.

He said the first phase would take up to two years for full implementation and would involve both parties working with the UN to implement a wide range of "confidence building measures".

It would not deal with the "core" of the problem which is the issue of self-determination.

This phase of the talks, said Mr Ramos-Horta, must focus on achieving:
—An immediate end to all armed activities in East Timor;
—A reduction in the Indonesian troop presence to a maximum of 1,000 within a six-month period;
—Removal of all heavy weapons, tanks helicopters, combat aircraft and long-range artillery;
—Immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners;
—A reduction by 50 percent of Indonesian civil servants;
—The stationing of UN specialised agencies in the territory;
—A comprehensive census of the population;
—Establishment of an independent human rights commission under the Catholic bishop;
—Lifting of all media controls by the army;
—Freedom of political activities;
—Removal of restrictions on the teaching of Portuguese and the setting up of a Portuguese cultural institute; and
—Appointment of a resident representative of the UN Secretary General.

Mr Ramos-Horta said some of these ideas could be implemented immediately without a loss of face for Indonesia.

"On the contrary, its international standing would improve significantly," he said.

Phase Two covers autonomy and lasts between 5-10 years, during which genuine political autonomy will be based on ample powers vested in a local, democratically-elected Territorial People's Assembly.

Mr Ramos-Horta said the following ideas should be explored during the second phase:
—Legalisation of political parties in East Timor;
—The setting up of an European Union legation headed by a senior Portuguese official;
—Elections for the Territorial Assembly with only Timorese eligible for election;
—Election of a territory governor by the assembly;
—A five-year mandate for the assembly and the governor;

—The territory may enter into trade relations with foreign countries and promulgate its own laws affecting investment, land ownership, property, etc;
—Remaining Indonesian troops to be withdrawn within three months;
—No army for the territory except a police force trained by the UN and under the supervision of the governor;
—Further reduction of Indonesian civil servants; and
—Normalisation of relations between Indonesia and Portugal.

Mr Ramos-Horta said the autonomous status of the territory could be extended by mutual accord at the end of Phase Two.

"Seven years would have elapsed since this peace plan was put into effect. The East Timorese people, having enjoyed a period of peace and freedom without the presence of the most hated symbol of the occupation, the army, might decide to continue this form of association.

"Conversely, the changing generation, attitudes and perception in Indonesia might also result in Indonesia accepting as very natural that East Timor becomes independent."

Mr Ramos-Horta said that if all parties agree that Phase Three which deals with self-determination should enter into effect immediately, then the UN could begin to prepare a referendum on self-determination to determine the final status of the territory.

"For the past 18 years, our neighbours have turned their backs on us. They allowed Indonesia to invade a small member of the regional family without a protest," he said.

"While ASEAN can be proud of its contribution to the resolution of the Cambodian conflict, it cannot be proud of its role on East Timor nor on Burma."

Mr Ramos-Horta then appealed to Thailand and the other ASEAN countries to offer "words of wisdom" to their Indonesian neighbours to seize the olive branch East Timor has been offering since 1974.

Exiled Rebel Attends Human Rights Meeting

BK2307123494 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] East Timorese exiled leader Jose Ramos-Horta and his aide managed to slip through the Thai immigration police and attend the regional conference on human rights yesterday.

Ramos-Horta and Mari Alkatiri, secretary for the external relations of Fretilin, a French acronym for Revolutionary Front for the Independence of East Timor, entered Thailand with European Union passports.

They were driven to the seminar in Don Muang in the Portuguese Embassy's Mercedes-Benz.

However, three foreign participants, including a Timorese, were not as lucky. They were deported by Thai immigration police on Thursday.

"We were so pessimistic about being able even to come here. We thought we would arrive and say goodbye to our friends before it was off to the airport.

"We don't want to overdo the hospitality of the Thai authorities," said Ramos-Horta to reporters at the seminar.

He said the reason given for the deportation of his three colleagues was that they had visited Karen headquarters and entered the country illegally.

The three were Margherita Tracanelli, media director for an East Timorese opposition group; film-maker Frank Correy; and Lito Ocampo, a Philippine photographer.

Ramos-Horta said Indonesia had put pressure on Thailand to stop Timorese from attending the human rights meeting by threatening to delay implementation of a joint development project.

This message, he said was passed by the director-general of political affairs in Jakarta to his counterpart in Bangkok.

Indonesia earlier denied this assertion.

The Timorese exile said he was told by Thai diplomats that ASEAN had conveyed to Indonesia the necessity to change the policy on East Timor and suggested that Indonesia should give at least autonomy to East Timor.

He said ASEAN as a whole was embarrassed by Jakarta's policy on East Timor.

A comparative seminar on East Timor and Tibet is scheduled in Macau before the end of the year or early next year, he said.

The organisers' attempt to change venue from the emergency home in Thung Si Kan to the Meridien President Hotel was again aborted as the hotel declined to accept the conference.

Burmese Foreign Minister Meets UNDP Official

BK2307101594 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Jul 94 p A9

[Text] Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw yesterday met a senior UN official for what is believed to be part of a dialogue toward democratization in Burma.

Ohn Gyaw met Nay Tun, senior member of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), at a Bangkok hotel but it was not known what specific issues were discussed.

Speaking to reporters afterward, Nay Tun denied any discussion of political issues. He said they talked about rural development in Burma.

However a Burmese official said earlier in the morning the two men would discuss political issues.

The meeting followed a UN General Assembly resolution calling on UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to begin a dialogue with Burma's ruling junta.

Meanwhile, a senior Burmese official yesterday tried to counter skepticism over Rangoon's announced intention for talks with the UN, saying that Burma was "very sincere".

"They can think what they like. We, as Myanmar (Burma), we are very sincere," said U Khin Maung Win, Burmese deputy director-general of the Counsellor and International Laws and Treaties Research Department.

Khin Maung Win, who accompanied Ohn Gyaw from Rangoon to the ASEAN meeting, refused to comment when asked if he believed Rangoon-UN talks would eventually lead to a release of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest since July 1989.

"I can't comment on that because it is just the start. Let me say we are always sincere about everything. We only say what we mean," he said.

The ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) announced on Thursday its acceptance of Butrus-Ghali's proposal for direct bilateral dialogue, aimed at achieving progress on political and human rights reform in Burma. The reply was conveyed by U Ohn Gyaw to Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri, who had been requested by the UN chief to sound out Slorc's response.

Asked if Burma was ready to join ASEAN, Khin Maung Min said only that Burma "has already identified" itself with the Southeast Asian countries.

He said several steps were necessary before Burma could join ASEAN.

Paper Views Motive for Burmese Attack on Rebels

BK2507061494 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Jul 94 p A3

[Text] While Asean ministers gathering in a Bangkok hotel are busy defending the policy of constructive engagement with the military regime in Burma thousands of Mon refugees who have effectively become the pawns of this policy now sit huddled under temporary shelters along the border facing an uncertain future.

Roughly 6,000 refugees fled last Thursday from an attack by Burmese soldiers on their camp at Halockhani, which sits in a disputed area along the Thai-Burmese border in Kanchanaburi province. Most of them have now settled on a rain-soaked hillside at a nearby Border Patrol Police checkpoint on Thai soil.

Officials from the Mon National Relief Committee claim the refugees have enough food supplies, but water is scarce and must be trucked in daily from Sangkhla Buri district.

Temporary shelters are being erected with the help of the French relief agency Medecins Sans Frontieres. But officials are concerned that an outbreak of disease could soon occur.

Thai authorities have reportedly already asked that the refugees be sent back to Halockhani. But the refugees have refused to move back out of fear the Burmese soldiers will return.

Border sources claim that the attack was carried out by Burma's 62nd battalion, previously based at nearby Three Pagodas Pass only a few hours' march away. After being repulsed by Mon rebels, Major Aung Myint, the battalion's second-in-command, reportedly told the refugees that they must all leave Halockhani within three days or the soldiers would return and kill them.

The next day, Friday, the Burmese soldiers were reportedly engaged by Mon rebels once again. But by yesterday the fighting had died down.

Up until a year ago, Halockhani had only been a small village. But thousands of Mon refugees have since been relocated there from the Loh Loe camp in Thailand on the orders of Thai authorities. They were moved despite expressing fears that just such an attack would occur, since the tatmadaw [Burmese Defense Services] base at Three Pagodas Pass is so close.

But Colonel Nimit Maliyaem, chief of border affairs for the 9th Army Division based in Kanchanaburi, ordered that the refugees leave Thailand because they were using up valuable natural resources. He, along with other officials, promised that the refugees would be safe in Halockhani.

Nimit has since reportedly been transferred to a new post. Neither he nor his replacement, Col Sakon Choentakun, could be reached yesterday.

"From the start, the refugees expressed their fear over this relocation—in no way can it be called a voluntary relocation," reads a statement from the Overseas Mon Young Monks Union. "Moreover, assurances were given that the Thai Army intended to protect the refugees. We Mon refugees may likewise ask where the UNHCR has been in all of this."

Analysts suspect that the real reason for the refugee relocation was to pressure Mon leaders into signing a ceasefire with the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc), the military junta ruling Burma. The Mon New State Party did enter ceasefire negotiations with Slorc in March, but no agreement has yet been reached despite several rounds of talks in Moulmein.

The motives behind the recent attack on Halockhani remain unknown. Some border sources believe it may be a further attempt to pressure Mon leaders into signing a ceasefire.

But the timing of the attack comes as a surprise, since it happened just as Asean leaders, in particular Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri, were defending the invitation of Burma's Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw to attend as an observer at the Asean Ministerial Meeting. The presence of Ohn Gyaw at the meeting has been criticized by human rights groups which accuse Slorc of numerous human rights violations.

Some speculate the attack was carried out by forces opposed to negotiations with the ethnic rebels, which if true would suggest that Slorc's leaders are not in full command of their subordinates.

Border sources say the attack by the 62nd battalion, which had just been replaced at Three Pagodas Pass by the 61st battalion, began at about 8:30 on the morning of July 21st in an area known as Palai Thumpai, the westernmost settlement in Halockhani and home to about 500 refugees Their stores were raided and many of their homes razed to the ground.

At about 11:30, the sources add, the tatmadaw troops moved on toward the rest of the camp, reportedly using 50 of the refugees as a human shield, but were intercepted by Mon rebels and repulsed with one soldier wounded. Camp leaders have always claimed that the refugees are simple villager who have no weapons except for homemade hunting rifles, but Mon rebels are said to be camped out in the nearby hills.

At this point, Maj Myint reportedly told the refugees that they would all have to leave the area in three days or they would be killed. The Burmese soldiers then departed, taking 16 refugees they had arrested with them.

The abduction has led some analysts to suggest that the battalion carried out the attack because they needed porters. But those taken away were all leaders of the Palai Thumpai camp, so their arrest may also have been an act of revenge for a previous skirmish between camp inhabitants and battalion soldiers.

Human rights groups have expressed concern for the welfare of the 16 refugees who were abducted. Amnesty International said in a press release: "(We have) received many reliable reports of torture and killing of civilians by the tatmadaw."

Editorial on Burmese Junta, Proposed UN Talks

BK2407140794 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 24 Jul 94 p 22

[Editorial: "Slorc Must End Political Games and Start Addressing the Real Issues"]

[Text] Burma's Nobel laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi would be freed from house arrest if she agrees to leave the country for five years, said Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt, the first secretary of the country's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council.

"I'd be happy to welcome her back if she returned home after staying away from the country for five years and worked for the sake of the nation," Khin Nyunt said. "When the time is ripe, I want to hold talks with her with no conditions attached."

Slorc Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw now in Bangkok as guest of the host nation to the Asean Summit, chimed in: "She would be allowed back into Burma unconditionally after that [five years in exile] and could engage in Burmese politics after the promulgation of a new constitution."

Then, as icing to top off the cake cooked up by an illegitimate government seeking desperately for international recognition, the Slorc stole the "limelight" from the Asean ministers when Ohn Gyaw announced that the regime was ready to hold talks with UN Secretary-General Butros Butros-Ghali toward democratisation, national reconciliation and improvement of human rights in Burma.

We welcome this latest Slorc PR blitz and hope the words will be transformed into deeds to ease the suffering of the 43 million Burmese and to return democracy to a nation whose people unanimously called for such change in the 1990 election which was blatantly ignored by the Rangoon government.

However, we question the logic and legitimacy behind Slorc's proposal that a Burmese national, who has never been charged or convicted of any crime, should go into self-exile for five years from her own country.

Suu Kyi's crime, if one could call it such, was telling the Slorc generals how corrupt they were, and demanding that civilian and democratic rule be returned to her people. This was taken away by force in 1962, reinforced in the 1988 massacre of more than 3,000 Burmese, and then by negation of the results of a free and fair election in 1990.

If anyone from Burma is to go into exile, then it should be the ruling members of the Slorc elite. They are the ones who should leave the country for five years to contemplate and atone for the barbaric crimes they have inflicted on the innocent populace. Their absence from the country, where they are not wanted, would give Aung San Suu Kyi, the National League for Democracy, the landslide winners of the last elections, and the Burmese people a chance to promote political reconciliation in Burma.

If Slorc can do this, then it would save itself the trouble of having to engage in dialogue with the UN chief because there is nothing to talk about. The world body has plainly stated what is required of the Rangoon regime.

The 48/150 UN Resolution, passed by consensus last year, voiced its "grave concern" over several issues in Burma. They are: the continued violations of human rights, the Slorc's refusal to recognise the results of the

1990 general election, the confinement of political prisoners including 1991 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, and the lack of democratic political reform.

This paper instead urges the generals, if they abhor the idea of leaving Burma, to hold direct negotiations with the woman imprisoned at her home on the shores of Inya Lake and to come to terms with her. This would be more beneficial to the country than going through the useless exercise of talking with the UN representatives and driving out a respected and well-loved Burmese from her own country. It will get the generals nowhere, and probably that's their aim, and allow them to continue to rule and exploit the wealth of the nation for themselves, their families and their business associates.

As for Aung San Suu Kyi leaving the country, it is a foregone conclusion that her answer would be a resounding "No". Slorc knows this. So does Khin Nyunt and Aung San Suu Kyi. It's high time the Rangoon regime stopped playing political games and started to address the real issues—the unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi, with all other political prisoners, and honoured the results of the 1990 elections.

If Slorc can't meet these two conditions, we call on the United Nations to do what it did with the apartheid regime in South Africa: impose sanctions on the ruling Burmese military junta until it comes to its senses. The kind of pressure applied on South Africa is desperately needed if the Burmese are to enjoy the benefits of living in a democratic society which they fervently yearn for.

'6,000' Mons From Burma Cross Border

BK2307143294 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Six thousand people of the Mon ethnic group have fled their home in Burma and crossed over the border to the vicinity of Ton Yang village in Tambon Nong Lu of Sangkhlaburi District, Kanchanaburi Province. The Mons, who escaped the attacks on their community by Burmese soldiers, are now staying at Chalockkhani refugee camp. Meanwhile, there is no report on any clash between the Burmese Government troops and Karen rebels. All the Mons at the refugee camp are exhausted and have been receiving medical treatment from international aid organizations.

Ranger and border patrol police units were dispatched to protect Thai villagers along the border with Burma.

Cambodian Minister Seeks Thai Cooperation on KR

BK2407144894 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Prince Norodom Sirivut, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Cambodia, reported after a meeting with Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri this morning that the Cambodian government presented to the Thai Government a document seeking cooperation for the enforcement of its law outlawing the Khmer Rouge.

The Cambodian Government requested Thailand to inform it of any cases in which Khmer Rouge elements crossed into Thailand and to coordinate work with it to follow the movement of the Khmer Rouge. However, Cambodia did not request weapons assistance, because Cambodia is an independent country and can take measures it deems necessary by itself.

Concerning the 14 Thai nationals detained for involvement in a recent coup attempt in Cambodia, Prince Norodom Sirivut said that investigation of the 14 Thais has not been completed and will take some more time.

More on Cooperation

BK2507051694 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Jul 94 pp A1, A4

[Text] Cambodia has submitted a letter to the Thai government asking for cooperation in the enforcement of legislation outlawing the Khmer Rouge [KR] guerrillas, Cambodia's Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivut said yesterday.

Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said that the Thai government would consider the letter carefully and is ready to provide full cooperation to Cambodia.

But he stressed, "The consideration and the implementation of the requested cooperation would be based on Thai laws."

Cambodia's under-secretary of state Marina Pouk told reporters that the letter would also be submitted to the other 18 signatory countries of the 1991 Paris Peace Agreement, including the United States, France and Indonesia.

"We ask the Thai government and other countries to cooperate in line with the outlaw law including prohibition of passage of the Khmer Rouge, information on the guerrillas leaders and to freeze their accounts," she said.

Don Paramutwinai, director general of East Asian Affairs, Foreign Ministry, said freezing properties and accounts of Khmer Rouge guerrillas would be quite complicated because Thailand has no money laundering laws and, in any case, the laws normally refer to the properties acquired by illegal activities.

"But in this case it is a political matter," he said.

An informed source said the Bank of Thailand and Finance Ministry are studying whether the assets can be frozen.

Phnom Penh adopted the anti-Khmer Rouge law last month after the failure of peace talks to find a political solution to the protracted fighting in Cambodia.

The law was enacted after a months-long controversy. Sirivut and other Cambodian MPs, including Finance Minister Sam Rangsi, initially voiced opposition to the law, citing fears they would lead to abuse of power and misinterpretation. But yesterday, the foreign minister said he believed appropriate safe-guards had been added to make sure this did not happen.

"I am among 15 MPs overseeing the human rights protection as the laws come into effect. It is guaranteed to prevent any abuse of the legislation," he said.

The move to submit the letter, addressed to Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, during the Asean meeting was seen as an attempt by Cambodia to draw the world's attention to its political obstacles.

A Cambodian delegate said Prince Sirivut asked Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans in a bilateral meeting yesterday to raise the Cambodian conflict in the Asean Region Forum today.

Cambodia attended the Asean foreign ministers meeting as a guest of Asean. Sirivut expressed approval of the Asean joint communique which stated clearly that the group respected the elected government in Phnom Penh.

The AMM's [ASEAN Ministerial Meeting] joint communique, which was released at the end of the meeting on Saturday, also condemned the recent attempt to overthrow the legitimate government and deplored the recent proclamation by the Khmer Rouge of a so-called "provisional government".

"I would like to thank all of (the Asean countries) for condemning the provisional government and the coup. Asean has played a role as a main factor for the stability and security in Cambodia," Sirivut said.

In his meeting with Sirivut, Prasong also proposed appointing a lawyer to represent the interests of 14 Thais detained in the wake of the abortive coup d'etat.

Prasong expressed concern over the 14, who he said had been held for "quite some time", and asked that any who had been cleared of involvement in the abortive coup be released.

Cambodia Said To Release Thai Coup Suspects

BK2507053494 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Jul 94 p A1

[Text] The Cambodian government has agreed to free 14 Thais accused of involvement in the recent failed coup after the conclusion of the Asean foreign ministers meeting in Bangkok, a high-ranking Thai Foreign Ministry source said yesterday.

The Asean foreign ministerial meeting, which a Cambodian delegation attended as guests, finished on Saturday. But follow-up meetings of Asean and its dialogue partners continue until this Thursday.

Observers noted that Phnom Penh officials have been giving confusing and conflicting signals on the fate of the 14 Thais, who have been detained since July 3.

The Foreign Ministry yesterday proposed that a legal adviser be appointed for the 14 Thais, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said.

"The investigation is taking a long time, and Thai authorities believe a legal adviser could help with the investigation," he said.

Cambodia's Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivut said yesterday he welcomed the idea, but Interior Minister Yu Hokkri had said no Thai officials would be allowed to participate in what was an "internal matter" of Cambodia.

Cambodia has announced it has finished the "second round" of the investigation. Phnom Penh's Interior Ministry has not disclosed the results but said some of the Thais would be released while others could be further detained.

"I am worried because the Thais have been in detention for a long time and Cambodia should release those cleared of involvement as soon as possible," Prasong said.

Thai envoy Sakthip Krairoek had been instructed to pursue the issue of appointing a legal adviser.

No Political Activities by Al-Arqam Reported

BK2407145394 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 24 Jul 94 p 3

[Text] Members of Al-Arqam, a Muslim sect, in northern Thailand have not been found to have engaged in any political activity or armed training, according to Special Branch Police Commissioner Pol Lt-Gen Narongwit Thaithong.

Pol Lt-Gen Narongwit said yesterday that the Special Branch had kept a close watch on the 13 Al-Arqam members, led by Ashaari Muhammad, in the North after Malaysia expressed concern the group might have been engaged in armed training in Thailand and returned to conduct subversive activity in Malaysia.

"We will never let foreigners conduct armed training here to carry out armed activities in another country, especially Malaysia which has close relations with Thailand," he said.

Pol Lt-Gen Narongwit said the 13 Al-Arqam members arrived in Chiang Mai early this month.

They left Chiang Mai on a flight for Singapore on July 5 but were sent back to Chiang Mai on the same day by the Singapore immigration police.

Ashaari Muhammad, alias Muhammad Ashaari Attamimi, is chairman of the Al-Arqam group which runs 22 companies in 25 countries.

Al-Arqam Leader Discusses Islamic Revival

BK2507060694 Hong Kong AFP in English 0333 GMT 25 Jul 94

[By P. Parameswaran]

[Text] Chiang Mai, Thailand, July 25 (AFP)—A Malaysian Muslim group championing Islamic revival in the Far East is making waves with its unrelenting propagation of religious beliefs deemed deviationist by the clergy.

"According to the Hadeeth (the sayings of Prophet Mohammed), the revival of Islam will start in the Far East. We want to prove that truth," Ashaari Muhammad, leader of the Al-Arqam movement, told AFP in an interview.

Ashaari, speaking from this northern Thai city, where he is in self-imposed exile, said Al-Arqam was using predominantly-Muslim Malaysia as a launching pad to achieve the objective.

The movement was expanding because "more and more Muslims are realising that Al-Arqam is the umbrella to realise the Prophet's dream," said the bespectacled 57-year-old Ashaari.

However, Anis Ahmad, dean of the Kuala Lumpur-based International Islamic University, said that the hadeeth cited by Ashaari did not indicate where the Islamic revival would take place.

"The hadeeth only gives (a) general indication about moral decay and corruption, which will require (a) revival of Islamic understanding," the dean said, adding that "these indications could be interpreted by different people from different parts of the world."

Officials say Ashaari aspires to establish an Islamic state in multi-racial Malaysia, where his group has been branded by Premier Mahathir Mohamad as a security threat.

Malaysia's state-run Islamic Centre said it had evidence that the movement has a suicide squad, partly trained in Thailand, to defend its beliefs. The evidence has not been made public, and both Al-Arqam and the Thai Government have denied the claim.

Islamic Centre director Zainal Abidin Kadir said, "Although we have proof, we do not want to be hasty in preparing the detailed report."

Diplomatic sources say Thailand is under pressure from Malaysia to rescind the sanctuary it is giving Ashaari.

Ashaari, wearing a green robe and turban as he sat cross-legged in his room at a five-star hotel, said, "My mission is to see Al-Arqam expanding from Malaysia to other parts of Southeast Asia and right across to central Asia and southern China."

Al-Arqam, which began as an intellectual study group in a wooden shed in Kuala Lumpur, has grown into a powerful missionary group with branches in 16 countries. Its businesses in the region are worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

In Malaysia, where Moslems make up more than half of the 18 million population, Al-Arqam has some 100,000 hard-core followers and sympathisers, especially in the civil service, with some civil servants reportedly having passed on classified secrets to the movement's leadership.

Al-Arqam male members dress like the Prophet Mohammad, donning blue-black, green or grey robes and turbans, and sporting black eyeliner, while the women followers are veiled in black and robed in dull colours.

The members participate actively in business and other trades, and some hold key positions in the government and private sector.

"We strike a fine balance between spiritual and material advancement," said Jailani Jasmani, Al-Arqam's Australian-trained technology and science director.

The movement's businesses have flourished from sundry shops in villages to other money-spinning activities in the transport, medical, food catering, computer, travel and trade and agricultural- based sectors in booming Malaysia.

Most of them are run under individual names to avoid detection by the authorities, Al-Arqam officials said.

Businesses in Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand, were also booming, they said.

Al-Arqam's advancement could, however, be blocked by an impending ban on its activities by the Malaysian government, which has branded it a security threat.

Malaysia's National Fatwa Council, which issues Islamic decrees, has unanimously adopted a decree that the group should be banned for being deviationist, said Hamid Othman, a senior official in premier Mahathir Mohamad's office.

Ashaari, persona non grata in Indonesia and Singapore, said he fled to Thailand because the government had wanted to arrest him.

Malaysia is expected to ban the group in mid-August, a move that could be followed by Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei, where the movement has branches.

Relations With Russia To Receive Boost

BK2407084094 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Thailand and Russia have agreed to promote economic ties between the private sectors of the two countries.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and visiting Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev exchanged their views during a courtesy call paid by the Russian foreign minister at the Government House.

Prime Minister Chuan told Mr Kozyrev that more meetings and information exchanges between private sectors of Thailand and Russia would be needed to promote their economic cooperation.

Mr Kozyrev, who is in Thailand to participate in the ASEAN regional forum, says Russia is in full agreement with Thailand that bilateral investment ties should be promoted.

Russia also expressed keen interest to join the ASEAN meetings as a dialogue partner.

Mr Kozyrev told Prime Minister Chuan that Russia intended to provide full support for economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Prime Minister Chuan encouraged Russia's role in economic development of the region. Russia, he says, is a large and resource-rich country.

The Thai prime minister and the Russian foreign foreign minister also exchanged views on regional situation.

Assessment of World Bank Policies Urged

BK2507070594 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Jul 94 p A6

[Editorial: "Time to Really Asses World Bank Policies"]

[Text] This week marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the World Bank and he International Monetary Fund (IMF). Despite the special occasion the institutions have kept the anniversary a low key affair.

The growing criticism surrounding them may be a part of the cause. For more than a decade, both institutions have been attacked by people's organizations for their promotion of free market policies at the expense of the people and natural resources of the Third World.

Since their foundation at the Bretton Woods conference in the United States in July 1944, the World Bank and IMF have directed the world's economic development. Their provision of Structural Adjustment Loans has allowed them to wield considerable influence over economic policy in poor countries.

As it prepares to turn 50, however, the bank is under attack from grass-roots groups demanding that "50 Years Is Enough".

Started in the United States, the "50 Years Is Enough" campaign culminate in September with a series of protests at the World Bank/IMF annual meeting which will be held in Madrid, Spain this year.

The coalition's steering committee members include prominent US-based social and environmental groups such as the Friends of the Earth, Development Gap, International Rivers Network and World Bank and IMF Restructuring and Alternatives Action Group.

People's organizations

In a message to people's organizations in Thailand and other developing countries in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Europe and Latin America, the group stated:

"Due to the overwhelming influence of the United States in financing and setting policy for the World Bank and IMF, US groups feel a special responsibility to ensure that every effort is made to change these institutions and promote alternatives...in affected countries".

Two questions facing the activist groups are whether such big bureaucratic institutions can really be changed. The other is whether a new institution would only take over if the pair are abolished.

Certainly the newly-established World Trade Organization is shaping up as another powerful advocate of free market economics.

In response to criticism about the damage some of its programmes have caused, the World Bank has adopted policies designed to make it more "socially and environmentally friendly".

The introduction of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) principle into the bank-funded projects is one example. But the implementation of the EIA has never been fully accepted by environmental groups, which have dismissed it as a "rubber stamp" to make the projects appear less environmentally destructive.

In Indonesia, for example, the World Bank has provided loans for a transmigration project which has uprooted hundreds of tribes of indigenous people. Despite strong protests from both local and international groups, the bank chaired a meeting this month of international donors which approved a US$5.2 billion development aid to the country.

As in other developing countries, early World Bank loans to Thailand were mainly for infrastructure construction. At the same time the IMF played a big role in the foundation of the country's key policy making agencies such as the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), the Board of Investment (BoI) and the Bank of Thailand.

Also in Thailand, it is the powerless rural people who have borne the brunt of the pain and upheaval caused by the Bank's projects.

Thousands of communities and their rich diversified cultures have been uprooted by the bank-funded development schemes. Vast tracts of pristine forest throughout the country has been logged or submerged under reservoirs.

Today, with the country's stronger economic performance, the role of the World Bank has been replaced by private investment and multilateral corporations. Infrastructure construction such as the mass transportation system in Bangkok has been privatized under the built-operate-transfer system with loan from commercial banks.

Growth-oriented models

But still, Thailand has not been able to escape the shadow of the World Bank. The country's policy maker and technocrats, who have long been on a World Bank supplied diet of growth-oriented economic models remain reluctant to investigate alternative forms of development.

Under such a model, environmental and social implications will continue to be sidelined by policy makers. And implementing the state's policy of wealth distribution to rural areas will not be possible as long as the natural resources which people depend on continue to be exploited in the name of economic development.

The 50th anniversary of the World Bank/IMF should be a occasion for Thai policy makers to review the direction of the country development. The well-being of people in the country, and the sustainable use of resources should be the priority, not the corporate well-being of multilateral businesses.

Official Previews Anti-Money Laundering Law

BK2407140694 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 24 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Narcotics peddlers, arms smugglers and human traffickers are three categories of criminals initially targeted under Thailand's anti-money laundering law, Narcotics Control Board Secretary-General Chawalit Yotmani said yesterday.

But the law, which will empower the state to seize assets of those convicted under the three categories does not cover government corruption, according to Pol Gen Chawalit.

The Counter Corruption Commission, which investigates allegations of graft and "unusual wealth" against civil servants, wants the same law to be applied in dealing with corrupt officials. Pol Gen Chawalit said the committee drafting the anti-money laundering bill, on which CCC representatives also sit, earlier resolved to write two draft legislations one focusing only on drug convicts and the other to deal with other crimes including government corruption and let the Cabinet decide which one to adopt for deliberation in Parliament.

But after several meetings, the committee finally agreed to make only one draft to deal with arms and drug racketeers and traffickers in the flesh trade, Pol Gen Chawalit said.

"We agreed that it would be difficult to include corruption conviction at this stage. If the draft was passed into law, we may add that in later," he said.

Pol Gen Chawalit said Thailand must push for enactment of the anti-money laundering law following its agreement with the international community. Local support for such a law was also overwhelming.

The bill drafting committee, he said, was considering whether to set up a new agency to deal specifically with the issue, but if a new agency was not set up one of the Finance Ministry's agencies will likely be put in charge.

Vietnam

Reportage on Khmer Rouge Killing of Vietnamese

Embassy Denounces Act

BK2507053194 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] According to the Khmer AKP news agency, a group of 10 Khmer Rouge [KR] soldiers intercepted a passenger bus 15 July on the Phnom Penh-Pursat route at the section in Krakor district, Pursat province. They robbed the passengers and dragged one of the passengers who was a Vietnamese national to a nearby bush and shot him.

On 23 July our embassy in the Kingdom of Cambodia sent diplomatic notes to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Ministry of the Interior, and the United Nations' Human Right Center in Cambodia to strongly denounce this new criminal act by the Khmer Rouge, and to demand an immediate halt to all acts of homicide and terrorism against Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia.

The diplomatic note suggests that the authorities concerned in the Royal Government of Cambodia should carry out effective measures to stop any recurrence of such incidents so that the Vietnamese nationals can be protected and lead a normal life like other expatriate groups living in Cambodia.

Killing Condemned

BK2507113794 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] In mid-July, a group of ten Khmer Rouge [KR] troops attacked a bus traveling from Phnom Penh to Pursat to loot passengers' properties and killed one Vietnamese resident. This was the second massacre conducted by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia against Vietnamese residents within one month.

Earlier, a family of five persons in Kampong Cham province were killed as the five members were unexpectedly shot. These are familiar barbarous acts of the Khmer Rouge against ordinary Vietnamese residents who are living in Cambodia. Their scheme is the old one: to massacre all Vietnamese residents, to destabilize the situation in Cambodia, and to oppose the traditional relations between the two peoples of Vietnam and Cambodia.

The situation in Cambodia remains tense and complicated with the spread of a new civil war. The First Cambodian Prime Minister Prince Ranariddh firmly said: It is the Khmer Rouge that causes instability in Cambodia. He also said that Cambodia always respects the traditional neighboring relations between Cambodia and Vietnam, and that no scheme could undermine these relations.

It is clear that the Khmer Rouge's plot will never be realized, but their barbarous acts will prove their unchanged nature, and even after 15 years have passed the Cambodian people never forget the brutal genocidal crime of the Khmer Rouge. They have set up a committee to investigate that reign of terror. The decision was warmly welcomed worldwide. The United States declared that it will provide materials and spiritual assistance to the committee so that it could achieve its goal.

Lao Military Delegation Ends Visit

BK2307071394 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] According to VNA, in compliance with a joint working plan between the Political General Department of the Vietnamese People's Army [VPA] and that of the Lao People's Army [LPA], a delegation of the LPA Propaganda and Training Department led by Colonel Kham La, acting director of the department, paid a working visit to the ideology and culture department under the VPA Political General Department from 12-19 July 1994.

During its stay, propaganda-training cadres of the two armies exchanged views on how to carry out ideological and cultural activites in the current situation, on a number of newly-arising theoretical issues regarding the plan against the peaceful evolution strategy on the political and ideological front, and on experience obtained in building a cultural environment in the army.

The delegation made a fact-finding tour of the M-41 Regiment of the Chien Thang Division; the Thanh Hoa Provincial Military Command; and the Sam Son City Military Command. The delegation was given a warm welcome by the leading comrades of our Political General Department.

Vo Van Kiet Receives French Economy Minister

BK2307102394 Hanoi VNA in English 1436 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA july 22—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received in Ho Chi Minh City this afternoon visiting Finance Minister of France E. Alphandery. [title as received]

Host and guest affirmed their joint efforts in accelerating the development of economic, trade, scientific and technological relations between the two countries.

The French finance minister expressed his belief that the visit would create further basis for the fine development of the cooperative relations between two countries including the cooperation in agricultural produce and food processing, tourism, investment.

Prime Minister Kiet, on this occasion, expressed his thanks to and highly appreciated the French Government's support in creating conditions for Vietnam to normalize its relations with international fiancial organizations.

'The success of the renovation cause in Vietnam is attributed to, beside the Vietnamese people's efforts, the precious support and assistance of foreign friends, including the French Government and people' the Vietnamese prime minister stressed.

French Minister Signs Protocol

BK2207063594 Hanoi VNA in English 1515 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 21—A financial protocol for 1994 under which the French Government will lend Vietnam an amount of 425 million French francs, twice the 1993's figure, was signed here this afternoon.

Signatories were French Finance Minister Edmond Alphandery and Vietnamese Chairman of the State Planning Committee Do Quoc Sam.

Mr Alphandery, who arrived here yesterday for an official visit, is accompanied by a number of government officials, MPs and businessmen.

These loans, 280 million of which is soft loan with an interest rate of one percent per annum, will be used to invest in key projects such as water supply post and communication service for rural areas, fire fighting.

On the same day Finance Minister Alphandery and his Vietnamese counterpart Ho Te signed two memorandums of understanding [MOU's] on debt treatment. Under these MOUs the accounts of the three Indochinese countries frozen in the French Treasury since 1954 will be cleared and an amount of 40 million French francs was agreed to be earmarked to repay the old debt of the Indochinese Union of Companies and Corporate Firms.

The two ministers made known that their agreements were aimed at better serving Vietnam's economic, cultural and healthcare development.

The French delegation is to leave here tomorrow for Ho Chi Minh City where they are expected to be received by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

European Union Delegation Visits Vietnam

Received by Phan Van Khai

BK2307125994 Hanoi VNA in English 1406 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 22—Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai received here this afternoon Mr Hans Van Den Broek, EU commissioner and his entourage, who are now on a visit to Vietnam. Deputy P.M. Khai conveyed P.M. Vo Van Kiet's greetings to the delegation and highly appreciated the EU's assistance to Vietnam over the past time. He expressed his hope that during their Vietnam visit the delegates would see with their own eyes the vigorous and positive changes of Vietnam in its renovation and construction cause.

For his part, Mr Van Den Broek said his visit was a manifestation of the European Commission determination to promote the increasing cooperative ties between the commission and Vietnam. He highly valued Vietnam's contributions to carry out cooperative programmes with the commission such as the programme of reintegration of Vietnamese repatriates and expressed his belief that the cooperation between the two sides would be expanded in many fields in the coming time.

Meets With Do Muoi

BK2307102594 Hanoi VNA in English 1436 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 22— General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Do Muoi, received here this afternoon Mr. Hans Van Den Broek, EU commissioner responsible for external political relations and other highranking officials of European Union, who are now on an official visit to Vietnam.

The two sides compared notes and appreciated the new stage and fine prospect of the cooperative ties between EU and Vietnam in an atmosphere of friendship and sincerity. Mr. Van Den Broek expressed his pleasure at the expansion of external relations of Vietnam, and said that his visit together with the frame agreement on cooperation that the two sides will sign would establish firm foundation and create new and vigorous steps of development for the cooperation between EU and Vietnam.

For his part, General Secretary Do Muoi said that he considered the delegation's visit as the most important event that helps to promote the relations between the two sides. He also expressed his thanks to the EU for its positive assistance to Vietnam's economic development in the recent years. The party leader affirmed Vietnam's wish to broaden relations with EU and to receive assistance as well as investement from EU member countries.

Relations Reviewed

BK2207140594 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Mr. Van Den Broek, who is in charge of foreign political relations of the European Union [EU], arrived in Hanoi on Thursday, starting a four day visit to Vietnam. He is accompanied by EU officials. Our radio editor reviews relations between Vietnam and the EU:

Mr. Van Den Broek is the highest level official of the EU to visit Vietnam since the two sides established official diplomatic relations in November 1990. The visit is made with many changes in the world and particularly in Asia and South Asia. Vietnam is recorded many important achievements in economy and in diplomatic field. Vietnam is playing a more important role in Southeast Asia.

For the EU, though facing many difficulties, the process of unification is proceeding with the doors still open to admit the Sweden, Austria, Finland, and Norway since 3 January.

Relations between Vietnam and the EU have strengthened and made favorable steps of development, particularly since the official establishment of diplomatic relations. Following the important visit made by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to some major EU member countries in 1993, a number of visits to Vietnam were made by leaders of European countries since early this year. They include Swedish prime minister, the Dutch foreign minister, the British state secretary and foreign minister, and the Danish minister of corporation and development. At late, the Spanish minister of trade has visited Vietnam.

On economics and trade, Vietnam and EU have made positive steps with the signing of an agreement on textile products in December 1992. Vietnam textile export value to the EU increased from $84 million to $240 million. At present, Vietnam and the EU are making preparations for the signing of a trade and economic cooperation agreement. The EU plans to grant Vietnam 16 million ECU (about $19 million) to help the latter carry out auditing, banking, and afforestation projects.

The EU has given Vietnam many humanitarian aids. Before establishing official diplomatic relations, it donated Vietnam $110 million worth of (?cereal). In recent years, they have granted Vietnam $140 million for the program of reintegration of repatriates started in June 1992 and carried out for 30 months. The European Community [EC] International Program have assisted 18 provinces and cities in setting up 71 job training centers which provide business training to help repatriates reintegrate. The program has also conducted more projects focusing on construction of infrastructure such as roads, dikes, schools, health centers, and [word indistinct] for water supply systems. The EC International Program also supplied nearly $1 million for education, health care, and job training for children.

The visit to Vietnam by Mr. Van Den Broek will contribute to promote cooperative ties between Vietnam and EU to a higher level.

New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Ends Visit

BK2407144694 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] During his visit to Vietnam, New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Donald McKinnon visited Ho Chi Minh City.

In Ho Chi Minh City, His Excellency Donald McKinnon was received by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. He attended an inauguration of the telecommunications link between the Ho Chi Minh City's Post Office and Telen Corporation of New Zealand. He also attended a ceremony to inaugurate two offices of New Zealand companies in the city, held working sessions with commercial and training establishments, and met with New Zealand businessmen and a number of former Vietnamese students who studied in New Zealand.

On 23 July, the New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and his entourage left Ho Chi Minh City for home, concluding his visit to Vietnam with a splendid success.

Party-Building, Anticorruption Measures Viewed

BK2507023894 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 1 Jul 94 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "Endeavors to Revamp the Party Must Be Closely Linked With Efforts To Fight Corruption."]

[Text] Evaluation results indicate more and more clearly that the party Central Committee's Third Plenum Resolution on a number of problems concerning the need to renovate and revamp the party has shed light on many theoretical and practical concepts on party-building work in the new situation. Generally speaking, the current drive to revamp the party has further purified the contingent of cadres and party members, enhanced the leadership skills and militancy of the party, and guaranteed conditions for successfully implementing political tasks—key projects being aimed at boosting the economy, eliminating hunger, reducing poverty, and firmly maintaining political stability. No steady progress has been made yet. Noteworthy is the fact that many party installations have not linked endeavors to revamp the party closely with efforts to fight corruption. In a number of sectors, primarily all economic units, capital construction companies, budget allocation agencies, and key establishments in charge of handling money, goods, and rare and precious materials, there are indications of misappropriation, waste, and loss of state property. As far as agencies in charge are concerned, there are also indications that a number of cadres have been involved in embezzlement of public funds, bribe-taking, and abuse of power to enrich themselves illegally. Meanwhile, the party organizations concerned have slackened inspection and failed to take timely action to clarify the responsibilities of collectives and individuals, particularly party members in charge of leadership. Some local party committee echelons, including a significant number of party installations at central-level agencies, do not make due efforts to direct the anti-corruption campaign. Many local anti-corruption and smuggling mechanisms perform poorly. In many provinces and cities, party organizations do not attach due importance to efforts to bring into play the strength of the mass movement against corruption. Almost all major corruption cases brought to trial were not the results of evaluation and criticism in the party but the outcome of denunciations by the people and mass media as well as of investigations conducted by the agencies in charge. The action against a number of corruption cases was not stringent enough. In certain cases, only light action was taken against wrongdoers. Worse still, a number of influential cadres also tried to protect corrupt elements and bribe takers. That situation has lessened the people's confidence in the party.

Endeavors to revamp the party must be closely linked with efforts to fight corruption. That is an objective demand and also a legitimate aspiration of the people. The reason is because it is the primary objectives of the anti-corruption campaign to purify party apparatuses and state agencies; uphold the sense of responsibility of cadres, party members, and administrative personnel toward the management of money, materials, and goods; gradually restore order and discipline; consolidate the people's confidence in the party; and stabilize the socieconomic situation. If we consolidate the party, but separate this task from the campaign against corruption and smuggling, then it will be difficult to achieve the goal of purifying the party. Experiences clearly show that fighting corruption and smuggling is not a simple task. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt an integrated set of measures and achieve close coordination among sectors, party organizations, mass societies, and organs of control and inspection. Consistent measures must be taken to enhance everyone's awareness, uphold the sense of responsibility, organize implementation, and put the right cadre in the right place. It is particularly important to adopt positive measures to fight corruption in party committee echelons themselves. Constant efforts must be made to inspect the activities of party members as well as of party organizations of law enforcement agencies. To this end, we must adopt measures to manage and educate cadres and party members so that they volunteer to make an effort to improve themselves, preserve revolutionary virtue, and strictly comply with self-management procedures. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen and enhance the quality of state management agencies. Special efforts must be made to perfect mechanisms, policies, and legal documents to prevent bad elements from taking advantage of loopholes to serve their schemes. As an immediate objective, it is necessary to closely link endeavors to revamp the party with efforts to direct the enforcement of party discipline and state law and settle once for all a number of corruption cases that have dragged on for a long time now. First of all, it is necessary to focus on the key areas of activities and units, especially the organs responsible for handling large quantities of money, goods, and rare and precious materials where there are indications of various forms of corruption.

When formulating action programs, party organizations and grassroots party chapters in particular must work out measures to deal with party members who get involved in corruption cases, show indications of wrongdoing, or deliberately attempt to act at variance with the law in order to misappropriate state property. Party committee echelons and, first of all, secretaries of grassroots party chapters and party organizations must be responsible for all indications of negativism by cadres and party members under their charge. This will guarantee the conditions for consolidating the relations between the party and people.

Vo Van Kiet Discusses Plan of Da Lat City

BK2507122894 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] On 22 July, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong held a working session with the Lam Dong Province people's committee and representatives of the Ministry of Building and other ministries and services concerned under the management of the central government. The objective of the working session was to study the master plan of Da Lat city and the adjacent area. The comrade director of the Urban and Rural Planning Institute under the Ministry of Building presented the master plan of Da Lat and the adjacent area until the year 2010. Under the plan, Da Lat will be developed into a political, economic, and cultural center for Lam Dong Province; a tourist and resort city for people in the area and other parts of the country, as well as for foreigners; and a training and scientific research center. The master plan also clearly outlines such features as population, area, urban building standards, infrastructure building orientations, and the number of building projects for the first stage that will be completed by the year 2000.

Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong and representatives of ministers and services under the management of the central government contributed suggestions to further clarify the characteristics of the city, construction layout, land allocation, and projects that must be completed in the immediate future to respond to the need to preserve and embellish the scenery and environment, as well as promote socioeconomic development now and in the years ahead based on the characteristics of the city.

In expressing his views to the working session, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet basically concurred with the aforementioned master plan and instructed the Ministry of Building and the Lam Dong Province people's committee to continue amending, modifying, and perfecting the master plan for Da Lat so that it will receive governmental approval soon.

Next, the prime minister pointed out that because of their characteristics, Da Lat and Ha Long belong with a group of a few rare cities in the world. Da Lat is a tourist city well known around the world because it represents a harmony of nature, climate, scenery, and people. In the process of national industrialization and modernization, Da Lat will play a more important role because it will serve as a tourist and resort city as well as a venue for international seminars. Therefore, the zoning and building of the city should conform to those characteristics.

The prime minister asked the ministries and services concerned under the management of the central government to coordinate with Lam Dong Province to formulate detailed and practical construction plans as well as sound policies to mobilize local capital to support project implementation and meet the immediate requirements of the master plan. He agreed to promulgate the system of appointing a chief city architect with functions agreeable with special city development needs. At the same time, cadres with good project management and implementation skills will be assigned to take charge of the project to ensure that Da Lat becomes a sound economic, political, and cultural center as well as a beautiful and civilized tourist and resort city.

Comments on Defense in Political System

942E0072A Hanoi TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN in Vietnamese May 94 pp 30, 31

[Excerpt of speech by Le Huy Ngo, member of the CPV Central Committee and deputy chairman of the Organization Department of the Central Committee, at the Conference on National Defense Organizations and Military Organizations in the Political System]

[Text] We are very interested in this conference and hope that it clarifies a number of issues concerning renovating and building our present national defense management system. With the credentials of a research cadre, I would like to contribute a number of ideas.

The issue of building and renovating the national defense organizations must be tied to renovating the political system, party, state, and mass organizations along with the process of renovating the country's economy and society.

First of all, it must be affirmed that our military organizations have a building process. They have developed constantly and been severely tested during decades of warfare. Those organizations have shown themselves to be a very powerful and highly effective military team. This is concretely manifested by the fact that the military, together with the people, have defeated much larger and more powerful enemies and won great victories in previous people's wars. Because of this, during the renovation process, we must review and affirm these things in order to exploit the strengths and inherit and develop these in the new conditions.

At the same time, it must be recognized that those organizations bear many of the marks of wartime military organizations, of a war of liberation, and of a war to defend the fatherland. Some things are not in accord with today's conditions, that is, peacetime conditions in which we are building the economy and country in close conjunction with building an all-people's national defense and people's armed forces to defend the fatherland. The stratagems of the enemy forces have developed, too, as was pointed out in the opening report. The enemy has switched to opposing our country's revolution using non-violent means. But that does not mean that they have abandoned their aggressive plots using armed force in situations where that can be done. Our national defense organizations depend on the new economic and social base in accord with the program of the Seventh Party Congress. This calls for building a multi-faceted commodity economy with a socialist orientation. Politically, this means building a Vietnamese law-governed state, a state of the people, by the people, and for the people that is led by the communist party.

In this general process, renovating the national defense organizations must be in accord with renovating the country's economic and social base.

We must distinguish between two concepts. National defense organizations differ from military organizations, just like state control over national defense is not totally synonymous with military command. Military organizations refers mainly to army organizations, the three branches of service, the hard-core forces of national defense organizations (which were the hard-core forces in previous people's wars), military rear service organizations, command organizations, and so on. National defense management organizations are broader. These includes organizations that formulate policies and implement laws and regulations. They are responsible for building and controlling the real and potential national defense strengths, which include the economic, political, military, scientific and technical, and national defense potential of the country.

The national defense organizations must mobilize all the people in order to participate actively in defending the fatherland, exploit the strengths existing in the military command organizations, and apply these strengths to the new conditions.

The national defense organizations and all national defense activities based on the laws are a concretization and systematization of the national defense lines and policies of the party. This closely combines the leadership of the party and the coordination of the state organizations and sectors and mass organizations. Foreign policy concerning national defense must be strengthened in order to exploit the integrated strength and implement the state's foreign lines of peace, friendship, and cooperation.

Thus, national defense organizations are not simply military organizations.

As for specific organizations, at the central echelon, attention must be given to actual capabilities. There must be a division of labor and coordination between the National Defense and Security Council of the state and the National Defense and Security Committee of the National Assembly.

The national defense organizations at the ministries, equivalent-level agencies, and organizations directly subordinate to the government and localities have been mentioned in government Decree No 19/CP of 12 March 1994. The Ministry of National Defense must renovate things much more in order to carry out its state management functions concerning national defense as well as its military command functions (its strong point for a long time). There must be strong organizations and specialists well-versed in policy matters and legal, economic, and foreign affairs who can grasp the country's situation in all respects as this relates to national defense in order to help the minister formulate legal documents and draft procedures and policies on national defense and military matters in a scientific and practical way for presentation to the National Assembly and government, help the ministries and equivalent-level organizations with national defense tasks, and coordinate building the economy and country with defending the fatherland.

As for national defense leadership in the ministries and mass organizations, some people think that full-time departments should be established. We think that the responsibilities of the party affairs committees and party groups must be clearly stipulated and that both strategic tasks must be led. [The tasks of] solidifying national defense and defending the fatherland must be understood thoroughly and expressed in the work plans and tasks of the ministries and sectors. This is the leadership responsibility of the ministry, party affairs committees, and party groups. That is better than assigning this task to a full-time department.

In the localities, the provincial and municipal military organizations, with a military command, must perform military command functions in the locality. They must also switch to carrying out state management functions concerning national defense with the credentials of organizations subordinate to the provincial (municipal) people's committees and submit to the military leadership and control of the Ministry of National Defense.

In the districts and wards, additional studies must be done concerning the most suitable way to organize district and ward military party committees and public security party committees. Things at the provincial and municipal echelon are different than at the district and ward echelon. The lower the echelon, the more important the security issue. Because of this, there must be suitable ways of dealing with organizational aspects, and good results must be achieved in carrying out the national defense and security tasks.

Thus, regarding state management based on administrative echelon, at the central echelon it is the Ministry of National Defense that manages things. Then there are the provincial and municipal military organizations, district and ward organizations, and village and subward bases. What about the military regions? Is the military region an administrative management echelon? A military region is a military command organization that coordinates the forces in a specific strategic area. It is an echelon in the unified system of military command organizations. Its function is military command. Participating with the Military Region 2 party committee and then the Military Region 4 party committee, I saw that the military regions were carrying out many important tasks. But there must be specific stipulations on military and national defense functions and tasks that are suited to the military command echelon. In the present situation, tasks must be assigned to the military region commanders to help the minister of national defense carry out a number of state management functions concerning national defense in their areas of responsibility. The next step is to systematize and resolve the relationship between the military region commander and the chairman of the provincial (municipal) people's committee, which is the echelon that is subject to the control of the Ministry of National Defense in national defense matters.

Government Meets Press on Economic Development

BK2307114194 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] The head government office held a news conference in Ho Chi Minh City on 21 July. At the conference, Mr. Le Xuan Trinh, minister of head government office, revealed that in the first six months of the year, socioeconomic development of the whole country grew at fairly good pace. In some fields the achievements are excellent, and the prospects of fulfilling and exceeding annual targets set by the resolution of the National Assembly by the end of the year are quite good.

The recent working sessions held between the government and leaders of provinces in three regions have brought up discussion and unanimous agreement on measures to handle the remaining tasks of the year. On budgetary revenue and expenditure, it is agreed that beside the tasks of cutting down loss of revenue and increasing mobilization of all revenue sources, reduction of expenses should be resolutely implemented and from now there will be no increases in expenses allowed if they exceed planned budget. At the same time, every effort should be made to reduce budgetary expenses by 5 percent and capital construction expenses by 7 percent.

In capital construction investment, priority in capital allocation will be given to major projects that need to be completed in 1994, and no allocation will be made to new projects, especially projects that are not urgent or have not fulfilled legal requirements.

To maintain price stability and keep inflation rate at an under-two-digit rate, production activities need to be boosted and balance between need and demand should be maintained to avoid all sudden price rises.

Regarding the task of fighting social vices, in addition to propaganda and educational measures, firm handling of offenses should be exercised even if perpetrators are cadres or state employees.

In relation to administration reform, the government is presently working urgently on measures to bring about early reforms that will be implemented in the last months of this year.

Government Issues Ordinance on Travel Firms

BK2307074494 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] The government has issued ordinance No. 49-CP on the organization and management of travel firms to specialize them, enhance their management effectiveness, and improve the quality and results of tourism-related business services.

The ordinance provides stipulations governing areas of responsibility, the regulations on establishing or declaring a travel firm bankrupt, and the division of state management duties over this field of activity.

On 9 July the Tourist General Department issued a circular providing guidance for the implementation of this government ordinance.

Transformer Station Under Construction in Hanoi

BK2307144894 Hanoi VNA in English 0701 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 23—Construction of a Sweden-aided 110-kv transformer station in Hanoi was started here yesterday in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Energy, the Swedish Embassy n Vietnam and the Hanoi Municipal People's Committee.

The station, which will be responsible for the supply of electricity to the Ba Dinh Precinct, the mausoleum of the late President Ho Chi Minh included, and to give supplementary electricity to two other precincts, Hoan Kiem and Dong Da, comprises two 110kv/20kv/6kv transformers with a capacity on 40,000 kva each. The first transformer is scheduled to be put into operation on august 30 and the second one on september 30.

The entire equipment which belongs to the latest series of its kind by the ABB of Sweden is bought at the cost of nearly VND 30 billion paid by the Swedish Government as aid to Vietnam.

Australia

Minister Comments on Further Aid for Rwanda

BK2507084094 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Development and cooperation minister, Gordon Bilney, says the federal government is working urgently on a further package of humanitarian aid for Rwanda. Federal cabinet is today expected to approve sending military assistance in the form of a field hospital and infantry support.

Mr. Bilney says a government aid official is currently in Rwanda assessing the need for further help.

[Begin Bilney recording] But really nothing will be enough if we attempt to deal with this crisis in the camps. What we must do is to try to find ways and means of persuading the refugees to come back into Rwanda where the task will be huge, but more manageable than it is now. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Australia's military officials are on standby awaiting cabinet's decision on whether to send troops to Rwanda. Lieutenant Colonel John (Wailen) says even if cabinet gives the go-ahead today, there will be some delay in getting the troops to Rwanda.

[(Wailen)] It will take some time to get those people together and, of course, the transport required because there is no port facility in Rwanda. Everything needs to be airlifted in and the timing of that move would be solely depended on the number of aircraft and that have to be pretty large transport aircraft and their availability. [end recording]

Kiribati

Elections for Parliament Begin

BK2107132294 Hong Kong AFP in English 1002 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Auckland, July 21 (AFP)—The only nation in the world where every day is in fact two days goes to the polls to elect a new parliament Thursday and Friday—and all in the space of twenty-four hours.

Kiribati, sits astride the equator and the international dateline. The nation's Gilbert Islands are in the west, and in today, while the Phoenix and Line islands are east of the dateline, or in yesterday.

When general elections were called last month, polling booths were instructed to open on the eastern side on Thursday and in the west on Friday.

The election was sparked by the fall of the government of President Teatao Teannati following claims of corruption and the misuse of public funds by senior officials.

Interim rule passed to a three-member council of state. But two of the leaders of the triumvirate fired the third, chairman Tekire Tameura, charging that his contract as head of the Public Service Commission had ended.

But when Tekire Tameura refused to vacate his office, he said, police physically removed him.

"Because we do not have an army here in Kiribati I cannot call it a military coup, but I can call it an administrative coup," Tekire Tameura said.

The PACNEWS AGENCY reported Thursday that 206 candidates are contesting the 39-seat assembly.

Under the country's constitution, candidates must obtain 50 percent of the vote to take office. If there is no clear winner in the first day(s) of voting, a second round will be held on July 29 and July 28.

Kiribati, formerly the British colony of the Gilbert Islands, consists of 33 islands scattered over 3.6 million square kilometres of Pacific Ocean. Its 71,800 people, known as "I-Kiribati", are predominantly Micronesian. The word Kiribati is the closest local pronunciation that the nation's 13-letter alphabet could manage for Gilbert.

Its capital atoll, Tarawa, was virtually flattened by American marines when they landed here in 1943 to dislodge Japanese occupying forces.

The largest coral atoll in the world, Kiritimati, or Christmas, was used for atmospheric nuclear testing by Britain and the US in the 1950s and 1960s.

Opposition Gains in First Round of Elections

BK2507061994 Hong Kong AFP in English 0437 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Auckland, July 25 (AFP)—Kiribati's main opposition party scored significant gains in the first round of voting in the Pacific islands' early general election, state run Radio Kiribati reported Monday.

Because Kiribati is divided by the International Dateline elections were held on the same day, but on two different dates.

The election was not due until next year, but last month the government of President Teatao Teannati fell amidst claims of corruption and the misuse of public funds related to hotel expenses by senior politicians.

In the first round, 206 candidates contested the 39 seat assembly where the winner requiring 50 percent of the vote.

Radio Kiribati said all seven seats where that occurred have gone to the Maurin Kiribati Party. Among the losers was Minister of Education Anterea Kaitaake.

Run-off elections with the top three polling candidates will be held in the remaining 32 seats on July 29 with Teannati among those still competing.

Soon after the final result the assembly, known as the Maneaba-ni-Maungatabu, will meet to select three names to stand in a new election for president.

Kiribati, the former British colony of the Gilbert Islands, consists of 33 islands totalling 811 square kilometres (325 square miles) scattered over 3.6 million square kilometres (1.44 million square miles) of Pacific Ocean. Its 71,800 people are predominantly Micronesian.

New Zealand

Hercules Aircraft To Leave for Rwanda

BK2407143694 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] A New Zealand Air Force aircraft is preparing to leave for Rwanda to help in relief work in the Central African country. The Hercules aircraft will leave for Rwanda via Australia early tomorrow despite the fact that the New Zealand Government has not yet authorized the trip.

A spokeswoman for the prime minister, Jim Bolger, says he agreed to let the plane leave as he was totally confident that his cabinet would back the move. The spokeswoman said that if the trip was authorized Hercules with its crew of 36 would be based in Uganda for a mission which was expected to last a month.

Papua New Guinea

PNG Not 'Dependent Underdog of Australia'

BK2407144594 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Papua New Guinea's [PNG] deputy prime minister, Sir Julius Chan, has told ASEAN foreign ministers that his country is not what he calls a dependent underdog of Australia.

In a statement issued through his office in Port Moresby, Sir Julius said he told the ASEAN meeting in Bangkok that any remnants of misunderstanding about PNG's role in the region should be put to rest. PNG has special observer status at the ASEAN Meeting. Sir Julius said that at the Bangkok meeting he got the impression that many believed PNG continued to be a dependent underdog to its former administrator, Australia. He said he told the meeting that PNG was very much an independent nation, economically vibrant, and stable. He said it could also be trusted by ASEAN members as a neighbor and a friend.

Defense Force Sailors, Pilots on Strike

LD2207094694 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0700 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Papua New Guinea's Defense Force sailors and pilots are on strike and they've defied orders from the commander of the Defense Force to return to work. The sailors stopped work today, joining the pilots who've been refusing to fly military aircraft for more than a week. Sean Dorney reports they're protesting over a range of issues, including service conditions and no funds for essential maintenance:

[Dorney] Until now the Defense Force pilots strike has been hushed up but the sailors at the PNGDF base in Port Moresby harbor have made no secret of their defiance. They pulled down the PNGDF maritime ensigns at the base and from the patrol boats and landing craft in dock and replaced them with the red and white striped port flag to show maritime operations have halted nationwide. A maritime officer at the naval base, Major Kim Thoso, told Papua New Guinea national radio that the patrol boats could not put to sea for want of maintenance and the sailors had stopped work until their demands were met.

Pilots, Sailors Stage Strike, Close Down Base

BK2407140994 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] In Papau New Guinea [PNG], the extent of a strike by some of the country's defense force sailors and airmen is not yet fully clear. At least 11 PNG defense force pilots are refusing to fly, and sailors at the force's naval base in Port Moresby Habor have closed the base down. However, some soldiers and airmen were on duty at the weekend and went on parade at Papua New Guinea's official Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremony at Port Moresby's (Ela) beach. The strike by the pilots has stopped air transport operations and grounded the force's (?Alquoi) helicopters.

The spokesman for Prime Minister Wingti's Office says there will be no official comment until after the defense force commander, Brigadier General (Bob Duddy Moore) delivered a briefing.

Navy, Air Force To Consider More Strike Action

BK2507074194 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Striking officers in the Papua New Guinea [PNG] Defense Force are holding emergency meetings to consider further action following their stopwork late last week.

Navy and Air Force officers have halted all defense force ships and aircraft from operating because they claim the government cannot provide money for spare parts and maintenance. The POST COURIER newspaper in Port Moresby says the officers are prepared to resign together if the government does not respond to their demands.

The officers have also expressed concern that more PNG soldiers will die in the conflict on Bougainville because the Navy and Air Force cannot properly support them.

Solomon Islands

Prime Minister Hilly Reshuffles Cabinet

LD2207093794 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0700 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] In Solomon Islands former forestry minister, Ezekiel Alebua, has been moved to education and training in a major ministerial reshuffle. The forestry portfolio has gone to Joses Tuhanuku. Mr. Tuhanuku moves across from employment and commerce, which has been taken on by former home affairs minister, Michael Meliau. Home affairs is now in the hands of Alpha Kimata and his former Ministry of Posts and Communication has gone to John Buthwota, who leaves education. The Prime Minister Francis Billy Hilly has also made a number of changes in the level of permanent secretaries. The appointments are effective from Monday [25 July].

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